THE GATEWAY

volume XCIII number 21 • the official student newspaper at the university of alberta • www.gateway.ualberta.ca • thursday, 20 november, 2003



SHAWN BENBOW

SHOULDN'T YOU GUYS BE IN CLASS? Business students Christine Tamm and Travis Pawlyk enjoy a romp in yesterday's freshly-fallen snow.

SU Bill 43 protest draws large crowd

ALLIE SYMTH
News Editor

Amidst an atmosphere of hope, a large group of students and members of the public gathered on the steps of the Legislature Tuesday to protest Bill 43.

As part of the protest against Alberta's Post-Secondary Learning Act, the University of Alberta Students' Union presented a play entitled *A Tuition Carol*.

The play was aimed at raising awareness about Bill 43 and the detrimental affects it could have on the future state of postsecondary education in Alberta. It featured Ebenezer Oberg being visited by the ghosts of Tuition Past, Present, and Future, who educated him about the potential outcome of his political actions.

> **"Your voices are important at this point in time. The focus of [Bill 43] will affect the lives of virtually every student in the province."**
>
> **DR DON MASEY, LIBERAL EDUCATION CRITIC**

The protest itself focused on many of the same issues as the SU's play. "Bill 43 is bad because it removes the tuition cap [preventing tuition at Alberta's postsecondary institutions from rising above 30 per cent of their operating budget], allows the [Learning] Minister to audit and dissolve an elected Students' Union, and threatens the SU's power of levy," said SU President Mat Brechtel. "But the biggest threat is that the tuition cap will be removed, causing tuition to become out of reach for most students."

PLEASE SEE **PROTEST** • PAGE 2

Prof's reinforcement learning work rewarded with $6.75M grant

A profile on the research of internationally-renowned computing science professor Dr Rich Sutton

CAITLIN CRAWSHAW
Associate News Editor

The white board covered with scribbled computations in Dr Rich Sutton's office takes up most of one wall.

"So we can think big," chuckles Dr Sutton from in front of an enormous computer monitor.

Sutton, a recent addition to the department of computing science at the U of A, is a leading figure in reinforcement learning, a sub-field of machine learning. Machine learning is a field which aims to give machines some of the same abilities as people, explains Sutton.

Reinforcement learning teaches these machines to learn through their experiences.

He is heading a research project to explore this realm of artificial intelligence, funded by a $6.75 million donation from the Alberta Infomatics Circle of Research Excellence (ICORE). The organization assists the work of researchers in information and communications technology.

The machine learning scholar will work with researchers from the new Alberta Ingenuity Center for Machine Learning (AIMCL) established on campus in September of last year.

> **"We're trying to ask fundamental questions about how intelligence works."**
>
> **DR RICH SUTTON, COMPUTING SCIENCE PROFESSOR**

According to Dr Robert Holte, the scientific director of AIMCL, Sutton is internationally recognized as the father of reinforcement learning.

"He's the one who basically invented reinforcement learning. I would say that he is the leading figure—if you mention the term reinforcement learning among the machine learning crowd, his would be the first name that anyone would think of," Holte explains.

"I think the fact that we could attract him here is one indication that AIMCL really is a world-class place," he adds.

PLEASE SEE **MACHINE** • PAGE 4

New international award program set to take off

COSANNA PRESTON
Associate News Editor

Aeroplan miles soon won't be the only award students can use to travel abroad, now that the U of A International Centre has announced an initiative to raise funds for international learning awards.

Barry Tonge, education abroad director at University of Alberta International (UAI) and Nancy Hannemann, global education coordinator at UAI, are two of the creators behind these new awards. The awards will target formal study abroad, global education, and provide funding for international students in financial need. They will be granted from three separate endowments.

This award initiative is long overdue, according to Tonge. She said the U of A is lacking in its support of education abroad, something Tonge and Hannemann both believe should be available to every student but is not because of financial barriers.

"[Traveling abroad] is a part of a university degree and should be accessible to every student on campus. We are a long ways off right now," said Tonge.

When compared to other school across the country, the U of A falls short in its funding initiatives. Currently, at the University of British Colombia, almost every student who travels abroad is guaranteed an award of at least $2000.

At Laval University, every student who travels abroad is guaranteed their airfare and usually receives additional stipends.

Tonge said the U of A simply does not compare. In 2001, out of the approximately 400 students sent abroad, only 34 received awards.

PLEASE SEE **INTERNATIONAL** • PAGE 2



CORY WANLESS

MAPS! Barry Tonge, education abroad director at U of A International.



15 A Simple Plan's simple plan was supposedly just to write songs that would make them famous. Turns out it totally worked. A&E has all the details of their latest exploits.

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Outside



Thursday Flurries, go go gadget mobile; High -14, Low -15
Friday Sun and cloud, go go gadget dental floss; High -14, Low -19
Saturday Sunny, go go gadget dancer; High -7, Low -15
Sunday Cloud and sun, go go gadget applesauce; High -3, Low -9
Source: Environment Canada

From the archives

A memo was issued warning staff and students to exercise caution when using the washrooms in the Humanities Centre. The memo resulted from a staff member reporting seeing two men use the women's washroom. The memo emphasized that "the incident should not cause panic but that there is no evidence that the two men were not harmless. Moreover, their behaviour points to the virtual impossibility of keeping the Humanities Centre secure." Many staff and faculty were concerned with the actions of the men, and felt it necessary to warn students about possible dangers on campus. In the end, it was admitted that the intentions of the men were unknown.

1992



19 After 17 years with the newspaper, the venerable Michael Q Winters has finally convocated. Find out what the ceremony was like in today's Comics section.

THE GATEWAY

thursday, 20 November, 2003
volume XCIII number 21

Published since 21 November, 1910
Circulation 10 000
ISSN 0845-356X

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THE GATEWAY is published by the Gateway Student Journalism Society (GSJS), a student-run, autonomous, apolitical not-for-profit organization, operated in accordance with the Societies Act of Alberta.

THE GATEWAY is proud to be a founding member of the Canadian University Press.

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colophon

The *Gateway* is created using Apple Macintosh computers, Hewlett-Packard Scanjet 3c and Umax Astra 600s flatbed scanners, and a Canon Canoscan FS4000US optical film scanner. Adobe InDesign is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images, while Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files which are burned directly to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of Fenice, Kepler, Joanna, and Aroma. The Gateway's games of choice are *KOTOR*, and *Mario Kart: Double Dash*. Happy Birthday to US!

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JAMES LEUNG

SAM The friendliest bird in the AgFor atrium, currently under renovation.

Revitalization of AgFor atrium under way

ROBIN COLLUM
News Writer

If you've visited the atrium in the Agriculture/Forestry Centre in the past few weeks, you may have noticed a few changes. The greenhouse space is undergoing a major rehabilitation to make it healthier, more inviting, and more structurally sound.

While the vegetation is thriving, the greenhouse itself has fallen into mild disrepair in the past few years. Actually, the current need for restoration is almost entirely due to the fact that the plants are growing so large, according to Phil Letcher, architectural supervisor for building trades, the department in charge of the project.

"It's something that had to be done, from a maintenance point of view," explained Letcher. "We're pruning, cleaning the glass, and taking roots out of some of the drains. The overgrowth was starting to cause damage to some of the structural components."

Tree roots have grown into the pipes that serve the basement of AgFor, necessitating an overhaul of the drainage system for the space.

Leaves from the trees and vines in the greenhouse have also grown against the glass walls, trapping in moisture and blocking out sunlight, which hurts the rest of the plants, discourages undergrowth, and causes mould growth.

Vines that had grown in between the glass and the supporting I-beams were expanding and could compromise the structural integrity of the walls. It was the combination of all these factors that required the U of A to launch such a large effort to tame the conservatory.

In addition to the unavoidable repairs, the work on the atrium will also include a restoration of the existing pond and waterfall. A few years ago, the water was shut off due to a problem with leaks, and plants moved into the streambed.

Other than these few plants, none of the atrium's vegetation will be hurt by the project. Removing some of the canopy and clearing the windows will allow more light into the greenhouse and encourage a wider variety of undergrowth.

The atrium is home to more than just plant life, though, and the restoration will also benefit the 13 birds that inhabit the space through improved living conditions, according to Bruce Alexander, the person in charge of the research greenhouses in AgFor.

> **"It's a nice place for students to have, and it'll be really nice when it's done."**
>
> **PHIL LETCHER, ARCHITECTURAL SUPERVISOR, BUILDING TRADES**

The birds are former pets, and started inhabiting the greenhouse about seven years ago. They are fed and watered in the space, and enjoy visits from students. One in particular, the famous Sam, is known to perch on visitors' fingers.

Both Letcher and Alexander believe the atrium is a valuable relaxation facility for students.

"It's a nice place for students to have, and it'll be really nice when it's done," said Letcher.

Colleen Baxter, a second-year student specializing in inland reclamation, agrees. She and her friends, as well as many other students from the department, use the couches facing the atrium to study and hang out. "It's a really nice place, and I hope they never take it away," she said.

Students protest affordability of education in Alberta

PROTEST • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Moody Giratalla, attending the protest to support the students, was one of almost 100 people assembled. "I went to university in the '70s and I only paid about $100 a semester, but now my kids pay about $5000 each for a year, said Giratalla. "Something is wrong. I want the government to put more money into higher education, decrease tuition, and increase scholarships."

Liberal Education Critic Dr Don Massey, speaking at the protest, encouraged students to join together across the province. "Your voices are important at this point in time. The focus of [Bill 43] will affect the lives of virtually every student in the province," he said.

"Thirty per cent is too high; it is unsustainable. We believe that the government should drop the cap to 20 per cent for one year, and they should take that year to come up with a long-term plan for funding postsecondary education in this province."

Laura Wilcox, one of many U of A students who braved the cold weather to attend the protest, agreed. "I have a little brother and sister who want to go to postsecondary education as well. I am already $20 000 in debt, and it's not going to happen for them unless something is done," she said. "Reinvestment is needed and the value of education needs to be recognized."

Christiane Wong, also a U of A student, expressed anger over Bill 43. "This is a whole load of crap, to put it bluntly. Students should be out here cheering the SU on. They think they need to be in class, but they won't be in class in a year or two because they won't be able to afford it."

> **"Something is wrong. I want the government to put more money into higher education, decrease tuition, and increase scholarships."**
>
> **MOODY GIRATALLA, PROTESTER**

SU Vice-President (External) Chris Samuel asked students to let their concerns be known. "Get involved in our Bill 43 campaign and in our tuition campaign. Make sure you vote, because unless students vote at the polls we can't get the kind of policy we want," he said. "Contact your MLAs with your concerns about Bill 43. Contact your SU executives, come out to our events, write letters, and get active."



JAMES LEUNG

Student Councilors perform "A Tuition Carol" on the steps of the Legislature.

U of A attempts to catch up to international funding standards

INTERNATIONAL • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

While other universities are funding close to 90 per cent of their students who study abroad, the U of A funds less than ten per cent.

"We just don't fare very well, and it means that students going abroad are, if they are already in debt, going tremendously more in debt, or those that can afford it are the only students who are able to go," explained Tonge.

The International Centre is looking to the University's Campus Campaign, an internal fund drive running until December, for support for the new awards, but Tonge says they are also trying to be creative when enticing support.

UAI has agreed to match any pledges up to ten thousand dollars that are received before the end of the term, hoping that the prospect of doubling a donation will encourage people to donate.

Tonge added that the UAI proposal could be used as a challenge to the Students' Union to participate in sponsorship.

"A bit of a challenge to the Students' Union could be here; it's their students and it's an opportunity to make maybe a one-time gift to support the students in a very concrete and tangible way."

There are other avenues to find funds as well, Hannemann noted. The International Centre will be holding a cultural variety night on 29 November at 7pm with tickets available for five dollars, and Hannemann is also hoping to garner support from University of Alberta staff and students.

"We are not just looking for huge gifts, which of course help, but a lot of small gifts will have an impact as well. So we are looking for everybody to contribute, anyone who can afford to do that."

UAI does not have a set time to begin offering the awards, but Tonge hopes that at least small amounts will be available as early as next year.

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by Jake Troughton and Robin Collum

This Monday, the SU posted eviction notices in SUB in protest of Bill 43. On Tuesday, they held a protest at the Legislature.

How effective do you think the SU's Bill 43 protests have been so far?



Erin Ross
Fine Arts II

I never saw any of the eviction notices. I'm a fine arts student and I'm in studios all day, I'm not usually in SUB. I've heard about it, but I haven't seen any active protests. I don't know where they're going to be. They need to try to communicate to different areas. I see a lot of stuff in SUB, but I don't see a lot of stuff where my classes are. They didn't do a very good job of letting the entire student body know about what they're trying to do.



Sebastian Hanula
Engineering I

I've heard about all the protests, but I think that more needs to be done because the students aren't getting involved. I don't know many people that have gone to protests. I think that more students have to participate for it to become effective. It has to come from the students themselves; the SU is doing all that they can.



Faye McKen
Engineering II

I wanted to come to the [protest] on Tuesday, but I had class. I've been reading a lot about it, but I don't know if it's having any effect. I knew a little bit about [Bill 43] in the beginning of the year, but I've only just started finding out more about it because it seems there's been a lot more around, like all the eviction notices. I'm starting to get more information about it; they're becoming more effective at getting information across.



John Gotwals
Recreation PhD candidate

I don't really know what Bill 43 is. I've just seen these big signs around SUB, but I don't really know what it's about, or about the protests. I haven't personally looked into what it's all about. So I don't know if it's [ineffectiveness] on the SU's part or it's more on my part.

3D printer makes models for U of A students and staff

SHAWN BENBOW
Photo Editor

Imagine designing a three-dimensional model on a computer screen, clicking "print," then several hours later having the model in your hand. It seems absurd, but with computer and network services' 3D printer, any student or staff member at the University of Alberta can produce realistic 3D models for a cost of between $30 and $60.

The printer, a Z Corp Z400, can produce solid models up to 8x8x10 inches.

Chris Want, a programmer and visual modeller for the U of A's computer and network services (CNS), says that although the U of A has two other 3D printers, this is the only one open for use by all students and staff members. "The other machines were purchased with grant funding, and part of the conditions of buying those machines was that they are restricted to research projects, and that limits their usage," he explained.

Robert Lederer, an industrial design professor, said industrial design students will directly benefit from this resource.

"If you're not spending two weeks making a model the printer can make for $50 in two days, that's almost two weeks more that a student has to design other models," he explained.

To print a model, the designer must make a 3D rendering and save it as a stereolithography (STL) or Virtual Reality Markup Language (VRML) file, which most commercially available modelling software is able to do. Want then checks the model for errors, and the finished product should be expected within two working days.

According to Want, it is called a 3D printer because of the technology used. Layers of plaster are spread across the printing area, and a bubble jet printhead wets the plaster with sugar-water to bind the plaster layers together.

"On a computer you can only see a 2D representation, but with this printer, you can get a model you can touch, something you can take with you," explained professor of civil and environmental engineering Dr Gerry Hoye.

Want believes his role as administration staff is to support researchers and students, and he thinks the new 3D printer will help facilitate the communication of their ideas.

Although Want and Lederer make the modelling process seem simple, fourth-year industrial design student Brian Hau said sending a model to the printer is more complicated than just rendering it.

> "We should have the ability to accommodate people who don't have [workshop] skills to communicate their design and thinking: this printer allows these people to do that."
>
> **ROBERT LEDERER, INDUSTRIAL DESIGN PROFESSOR**

"It's a long process because we have to model thoroughly. The program we use is simple to make a rendering, but when we have to define wall thicknesses and hollow sections, it makes it more tedious," Hau explains.

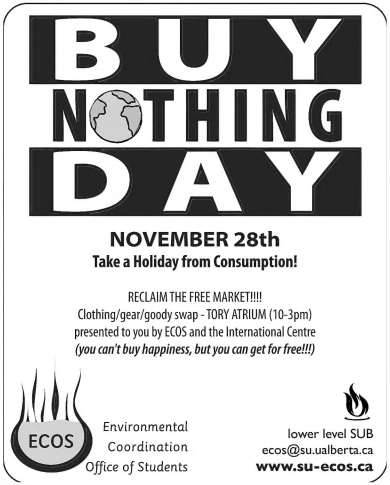
However, Lederer said it's more reasonable for students to spend extra time modelling on a computer than working in a shop. "We're not here to make students into workshop technicians," he explains. "We should have the ability to accommodate people who don't have those skills to communicate their design and thinking; this printer allows these people to do that. That's what it comes down to—it's a communication tool."

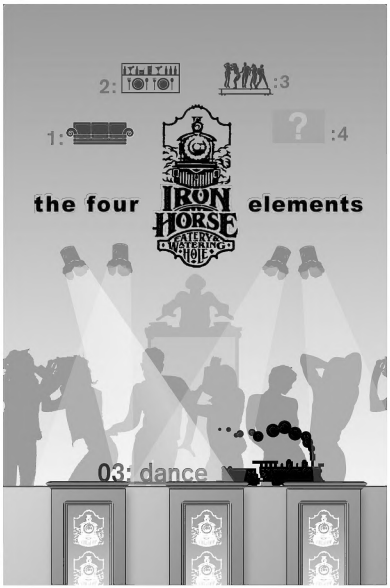
For more information about the 3D printer, see www.ualberta.ca/cns/3dprinter/.



SHAWN BENBOW
Programmer Chris Want shows a model made on the U of A's new 3D printer.









See that man? That's the news editor. And see that burning city? That's her empty news meetings. And see how that man is crying? That's what the news editor is doing inside right now. You may be asking in abject horror how this tragic problem can be solved. Well, it's quite simple really: save the "western world" from "terrorism" and come to news meetings, Tuesdays at 4pm.

THE GATEWAY: turning news into paper since 1910

Prof teaches machines to learn from their mistakes

MACHINE • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Sutton, who began his academic career as a psychology undergraduate, now studies learning in the machine realm.

"And reinforcement learning is a strongly learning-based approach to that problem. We're trying to ask fundamental questions about how intelligence works, about how the mind works, and translate those into computational terms," he explains.

But such a simple description doesn't do justice to the complexity of Sutton's work. Sutton's work involves a lot of "thinking big," for he believes that machines, like people, can learn through rewards and penalties.

"We're trying to understand what it means computationally to have a life, to have goals, and to strive for and achieve things," Sutton says. Much of his work involves the translation of learning problems into mathematical equations.

Like humans and other animals, a computer program can be given different situations in which to make choices in order to reach a goal, thus learning from its experiences. The development of systems that can learn is beneficial for a number of fields, including manufacturing, e-commerce, and the development of artificial intelligence.

In the case of manufacturing, Sutton explains that process control at an oil refinery can benefit from a program that learns when to turn up pressures or increase pressures in order to maximize performance. In terms of artificial intelligence, reinforcement learning brings us closer to replicating the human mind, he argues.

"The whole theme of my research is that there should be simple principles underlying learning in people and animals. So I don't emphasize our uniqueness, I emphasize our similarity to other systems, even computer systems," he explains.

"Its sort of a funny thing to think that human beings could have intelligence or consciousness, but that's what artificial intelligence is about: trying to understand what it means to have a mind well enough to make one. I think of it more like psychology than engineering, we're studying the mind. And a good way to study it is not just to predict experiments—as you might in a lab with animals—but to try to build systems that have the abilities that minds have."



SHAWN BENBOW

FINALLY: ROBO-DOG! Dr Rich Sutton displays Pavlov the robot dog, created with professor Michael Bowling and Andrew Hiew.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Compiled by Caitlin Crawshaw

BONDAGE CLASS SPARKS CONTROVERSY

VICTORIA (CUP)—Curious couples learned the ropes of bondage safety at the University of Victoria last Wednesday at a workshop dubbed "Bondage 101."

"There isn't a whole lot of literature out there on practicing bondage safely," said Michael Joyce from the UVic Pride Collective, who organized the workshop with local fetish group Sagacity.

Sagacity hosts frequent "play" parties—drug, sex, and alcohol-free events—to showcase their talents, and meets once a week at a restaurant just outside Victoria.

Over the past two weeks, the event created a media fervour. The *Calgary Herald* warned it could promote dangerous sexual activity. In the United States, conservative commentator Doug Patton called the workshop "immoral."

The workshop organizers are currently planning Bondage 102, which will focus on suspension.

Sarah Petrescu, *The Martlet*

PILOT PROGRAM GIVES WORK PERMITS TO FULL-TIME INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

WINNIPEG (CUP)—International students in Manitoba can now work off-campus, thanks to a new federal-provincial pilot program announced at the end of last month.

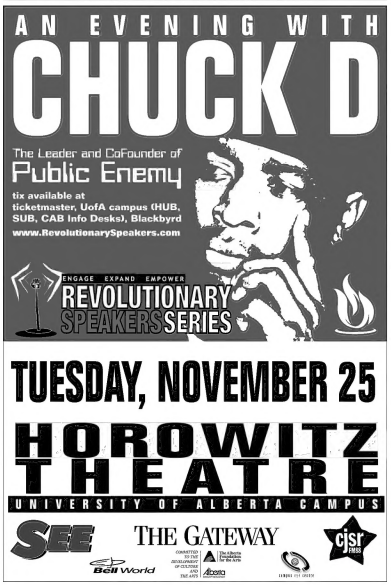
The program, a two-year joint initiative of the governments of Canada and Manitoba, allows full-time international students to apply for an open work permit.

The permit allows students to work a maximum of 20 hours per week outside of their postsecondary institution while they attend school.

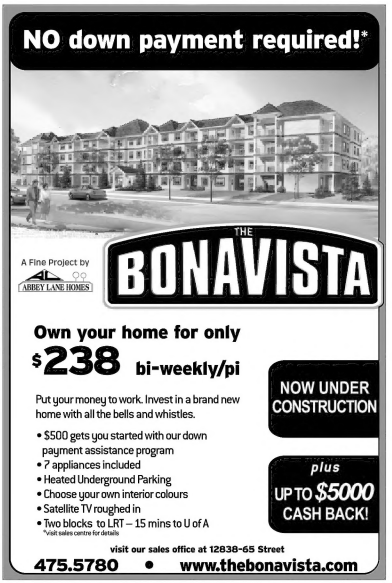
Currently, full-time international students are only authorized to work on the campus of the institution where they attend classes.

Citizenship and Immigration Canada will issue the permits to eligible students for one year.

Robert Kotyk, *The Manitoban*







We've seen the future...and lived to tell the tale!

My god, it's too much to bear! We're 93 years old today! I mean, no mere mortal should be able to part the mists of time to see what's ahead. But we, of course, have. And even in the beautiful, horrible future, people are still reading the *Gateway* for all of their space-campus news. Even that guy, whose space car is about ten seconds away from running into a tree that hasn't yet even begun to sprout.

So if that's you in ninety-three years, don't say we didn't warn you.



THE GATEWAY
93
YEARS

Get over it, Edmonton; the past is the past

OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS, I've spent many a sleepless night just lying there, staring at the ceiling, pondering the unspeakable evil I have committed. It's been eating me alive, this terrible secret, and so, in an attempt to salvage what little shred of sanity I may still possess, I've decided to come clean to everyone. I've done a very bad thing, Edmonton: I turned down a ticket to the Heritage Classic.

Take a minute to grab some napkins to clean up the coffee you just sprayed all over this article in total disbelief; it's okay, I can wait. You okay? You want a hot towel or something? Huh? Do ya? Alright. Let's continue.

I know it's impossible for you to fathom. After all, *everyone* wants to go to the Heritage Classic: it's the *Heritage fucking Classic*. When you're offered a ticket to an event that so many Edmontonians were horny for that there had to be a citywide lottery just to determine who would have the right to spend $120 on a frozen plastic seat two hundred yards away from anyone who's actually playing hockey, you're damn well going, right? It's like jury duty or a draft notice; you just don't have a choice in the matter.

I would have agreed with you until a few days ago. At first, my decision was purely a financial one. Hey, it's 120 bucks. That's 28.25 pints of Grasshopper, or like, 126 packs of Big League Chew bubble gum.

But beyond the harsh fiscal reality of potentially lost shredded bubble gum and beer, I actually found myself wondering if it was worth it. Sure, it's being hyped up to all hell in every possible form of media as the single most amazing sports event since that guy beat some other guy at something a few years back, but you know what? I actually think it sounds kind of stupid.

Don't get me wrong here: there are but a precious few who could claim to be more fervent Oilers fans than I, and that's only because I don't really feel like painting my face and drinking Canadian and punching people from Calgary. But to spend so much money for the privilege of freezing my ass off while trying to tell which set of jerseys skating around looks sufficiently white enough to belong to Edmonton? I can take my TV outside if I get the sudden urge to hate being cold.

But of course, the big draw of the Classic isn't simply that it's a game between the Oilers and their sixth- or seventh-biggest rivals, the mildly annoying Canadiens. Clearly its appeal is the Alumni game prior to the main event, which promises to be a spirited battle between Guy Lafleur—and any other old mid-level Canadiens who aren't dead or in jail—against a bunch of aging Oilers role-players and Kevin Lowe's inner ear infection. Oh yeah, and apparently Wayne Gretzky will be there.

Remember when he played for the Oilers? Remember when we were good? Won a few Stanley Cups? Finally we can relive those glory days, those triumphant days of, uh, eighteen or so years ago. Woo.

Maybe it's just because I didn't live in Edmonton back then (I was living in Yellowknife during most of the Oilers' Cup wins), but, well, the desperation with which this city still clings white-knuckled and wild-eyed to its hockey team's past is kind of sad. I mean, come on, Edmonton: your last championship win was in 1990. As a friend of mine often says: "If I bought a dog the day the Oilers last won the Cup, it would be dead by now." Maybe—and all I'm saying is maybe here—it's time to let go.

So enjoy your freezing-cold, impossible-to-see, masturbatory-nostalgia-fantasy of a hockey game, Edmonton! I'll be at home with a perfect view of the game and two hundred pounds of Big League Chew.

CHRIS BOUTET
Editor-in-Chief

A haiku relating to fresh coffee action

I love free coffee
Java Jive is fantastic
My hands are shaking.

COSANNA PRESTON
Associate News Editor

LETTERS

'Market' means more than Braaten thinks

Aaron Braaten, in his article concerning the Keynesian devised accounting scheme ("Scrap the GDP-based accounts system," 6 November), wrote that "The point is that a multitude of nurturing and welfare-enhancing activities are not counted in GDP simply because they do not occur in the market."

Not only is such a statement confusing, it is downright erroneous. If their activities "do not occur in the market," where then do they take place? Unfortunately for the readers, Mr Braaten doesn't have the answer.

Here, Mr Braaten is once again guilty of ascribing the word "market" to a an impersonal entity that is constantly imposing individuals to act in a manner that they would otherwise not partake in. As the eminent Austrian, Murray Rothbard once stated, "The 'market' is individuals acting."

It's really that simple. Only governments, through their use of coercive taxes, restrictions, and laws can force individuals to act in such a manner; on the other hand, corporations like Coke, Nike, and Petro Canada cannot.

DAMEIN ZAKORDONSKI
Edmonton

Don't like the SU? Get involved

So David Berry didn't like the Students' Union's mock shutdown ("Hamburgers aren't going to make the student body better informed, SU," 18 November). Neither did I. I found it smug, self-righteous, and typical of the SU's inflated opinion of itself, an opinion that almost none of its constituents share. But somehow, Berry still anticipated a letter from me "informing (him) and everyone else out there about all the spectacular, fantastic, earth-shattering things the SU has already done this year to combat the evils of Bill 43."

My point, to the extent that I have one, is not that Berry is right about the mock shutdown, or that he's wrong about the mock shutdown, or even that he's a big fat poopy head. My point is that there is a tremendous diversity of opinions among people associated with the SU and, more particularly, among student councilors. Some councilors (such as myself) feel that the SU is a disgustingly self-satisfied organization, far less effective and useful than it likes to pretend; some feel that the SU is a wonderful organization whose only real weakness is in convincing students of this. Some consider Mat Brechtel to be a minor deity of some kind, while others would like to see him tarred and feathered. Some thought that Mike Hudema was a brief breath of fresh air, while others were ashamed to admit that they were University of Alberta students during the Hudema era.

Before assuming that everybody remotely affiliated with the SU is a dreamy-eyed droid, perhaps Berry should have come to a Students' Council meeting. Chances are he would have found somebody who was representing his opinions.

STEVE SMITH
Students' Union Business Councilor



Student apathy won't stop this councilor

I'm writing this letter because of the 18 November article "Hamburgers aren't going to make the student body better informed, SU" by David Berry.

I realize how easy it is to stand on the sidelines and bitch, but this article takes it to a new level. I used to bitch too, but then it dawned on me that sitting on my ass and bitching wasn't helping. If I have to come and staple a poster to your forehead, I will come and do it, just to get you, the *Gateway* staff out to these events. I have attended most of these events and, for the most part, the *Gateway* was not in attendance. When the photographers do come they take pictures that fail to get the message across. Where was the *Gateway* Tuesday night when Students' Council was making what stands to be the most important decision of the year on the multi-year tuition deal?

The Bill 43 banner in Quad reads "STOP BILL 43 NOW" but when the picture showed up in the newspaper the photo cut out "STOP." What kind of message does that send to students?

Why does the SU have events like barbeques? Why should we have to give incentives like free hamburgers to get students to come and be good community members and citizens?

The answer is easy: ultimately, there are individuals in the SU who care about the welfare of students. I've met many of them at banner painting nights that stretch into the wee hours, at barbeques in the snow, and in the SU office. Why do we care? Perhaps it's all the propane and paint fumes clouding our better judgment, but we won't stop caring. We'll fight for students, some would argue in vain, against a rich provincial government that couldn't care less about their most valuable resource: young Albertans.

Just because you think it what we do is crap, Mr Berry, doesn't mean we will ever stop fighting the proverbial "good fight." I will continue to do whatever it takes to get students involved because we need students to affect change.

HEATHER WALLACE
Students' Union Arts Councilor

Lister: take your licks

I lived in Lister Hall for my first year in Edmonton and I can honestly say that it was one of the best times of my life. When I came to this city I didn't know a single person nor did I know that drinking wine coolers is a big no-no for dudes who want to succeed socially. Lister fixed those problems and more for me; just about every person I know in Edmonton is through some sort of contact I had at Lister, and I only drink manly drinks now.

However, while the time I spent there was quite enjoyable, I was still able to recognize that I was surrounded by drunken clowns. Hell, *I* was a drunken clown. And chances are if you are reading this in a Lister common room you're at least a part-time drunken clown. Which brings me to my next point: if you think that Lister Centre has the unfair reputation of being full of drunken clowns, you are just kidding yourself or not having any fun or living on one of those quiet floors where all the weirdos live.

Hopefully you'll change your mind the next time you're cheering on one of your neighbours while he is vomiting, or when you realize that you have been passed out under one of the tables at Dukes for 15 minutes. It could be worse you know; at least you guys aren't in a frat, because everyone knows those people are strange.

BRIAN LIN
History IV

Gateway crosses the line

Given your stance on refusing to publish letters to the editor of a racist, libelous, sexist, or otherwise hateful nature, I am positively flummoxed as to how the incredibly offensive and tasteless advertisement demeaning to Jesus Christ and repulsive to all who follow him made it into your paper in the last issue on page 13.

Not only do I find the advertisement to be crude and obscene, but this should enrage every minority group on campus. We may not all agree on each other's faiths or personal choices, but in a university that promotes tolerance and understanding, I find it incomprehensible that these sorts of statements should make their way into the university's most popular publication. What's next, *Gateway*, for a "totally offensive" paper since 1910? An anti-Semitic article, or a satirical cartoon about the First Nation's gods?

I remember reading, only last week, an opinion article where the author decried statements made by a US General that could be construed as intolerant toward those of the Islamic faith. The *Gateway* then follows up with the absolutely wonderful milk carton mockery of Christ. For a newspaper that is prohibited by law to discriminate in employment against religion, sex, ethnicity, ad nauseum, I found it very peculiar that the *Gateway* made sinning one of the job descriptions for a writing gig.

Ironically, the author placed Jesus on a milk carton as if he/she had lost him. I hope that person finds Him, or at least considers the ramifications of publishing their incredibly bigoted views.

NATHANIEL VOS
Science I

Don't like biking? Try walking

Thank you, Ryan Williams, for voicing so many of the reasons biking in Edmonton is hell, and how unaccommodating seemingly everything in the city is ("Year of the bike a bad year for cyclists," 13 November).

Unfortunately, while he expressed many of the problems with trying to use the alternative measure of biking, he left out the fact that it's still (in the summer anyway) an almost guaranteed faster, easier choice than ETS. And not just for those short trips where it's impractical to think the bus could compete with a five-minute bike ride. I'm talking about where I used to live, far from the University.

PLEASE SEE MORELETTERS • PAGE 7

Religious groups shouldn't advertise faith



DAVID BERRY

They finally revealed the truth. After absolute weeks of waiting on tenterhooks, those loveable Green Figurine folks finally revealed who or what the "Green Figurine" actually is. Surprise, surprise, they're green... and the "figurine" is Jesus.

It's safe to say that anyone who knows me, has read a few of my ramblings or heard my manic street preaching knows roughly where these people stand in my books: nestled snugly between the pro-lifers and the radical feminists. For those still bewildered, this means I won't be sending them Christmas cards anytime soon.

Now, though I am an atheist, my problem with these poster-plastering proselytizers has nothing to do with the fact they have faith. I'm a fan of faith; I honestly think it's wonderful. Admittedly, faith isn't something I have, but I can appreciate the pureness of it, the sheer force it can hold over people and the undeniable good it has done in the world.

That said, what bothers me about this particular incarnation of belief has to do with the presentation the green ones favour. Maybe it's just me, but I've always found the most profound faith is the quiet faith, the one that is devout but still personal, not the kind that announces itself to the world.

My grandmother, for instance, spent her final days clutching her rosary to her chest, not telling the nurses how great Jesus was, but I don't doubt her dedication to God. My Muslim friends don't walk around telling everyone how tight they are with Allah, but to call them anything other than rigorously devout would be a sacrilege in itself.

It just seems the louder someone brags to me about how wonderful their particular views of the world are, the more I wonder which one of us they're trying to convince. I guess the difference is that the stoic, pious types seem to have this quiet confidence that even though you don't agree with them now, it's only a matter of time before you find the true path, namely the one they're on, while the people who feel the need to sing the praises of their faith from the rooftops seem to imply that if they don't explicitly show you the way to God, or Buddha, or Shiva, you'll spend the rest of your life never realizing the truth.

Now this isn't to say that I think you should find your beliefs and shut the hell up about them; far from it. To be certain, anyone who considers themselves truly faithful should be more than willing to spread their wisdom to any who desire to listen. The trick is realizing that not everyone may want to heed your words, no matter how right they appear to be, and accepting the fact that those who truly want to hear your message will seek you out when the time is right. And while nobody is forcing anyone to read those posters attached to every open space on campus, there is a slight difference between being open to talk about your faith should anyone want to and asking everyone who walks by if they believe in God.

While I appreciate the zeal of the folks behind the "Green Figurine" campaign and admire how great they think Jesus is, I think it would be best if they let those of us among the misguided masses to figure things out for ourselves. Because as important as saving souls is, saving a few trees wouldn't be such a bad idea either.

MORE LETTERS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

On a bad day fighting the wind, I could bike the over 150 blocks to the U of A at least 15 minutes faster than I could take ETS. Assuming, of course, that I never had to wait for a bus, as it always picked me up the moment I left my front door, as buses are wont to do.

Williams' article hardly mentioned that when traveling outside of those peak hours, or when traveling to a place where there aren't enough commuters to warrant a tragically overfilled bus, and thus no bus at all, walking is often faster and easier. Lets hope you don't have to actually carry anything.

Williams' article was indeed informative, and too very right when he triumphantly proclaims he "finally managed to get [his] hands on the only useful form of transportation in this city: a car." Too bad he didn't make a big enough deal about the problems with the other forms of transportation those of us unfortunate enough to have to resort to without our motorized vehicles are still forced to deal with.

ADAM FERLAND
Science I

The *Gateway*'s become a rag

First of all, Dave Berry has no idea what he's talking about ("Moreau filling void left by Bucky," 18 November). He calls Moreau a "grinder" with hands like the Gretzky statue (meaning stone). This Berry guy clearly doesn't know NHL hockey from a mound of his own bullshit.

Moreau is a first round draft pick, which should right away tell you he's got real talent but is probably a victim of situation. Moreover, he's a power forward and that's the slowest developing position in hockey. I'm not going to get into specifics, because anyone can look up the stats of any middle-of-the-road power forward and see for themselves.

Second, that stinking display of hockey ignorance is pre-empted by my more general criticism of the paper as a whole. The *Gateway* has become a rag. Sure, it does a good job of reporting the day-to-day events, but the opinions and extras are total garbage. Take the 18 November issue for example; that Rozenhart fellow basically shat on some paper and the *Gateway* published it. He changed the point of his article like three times and its only 500 words: "And this brings me to why I've asked you all here today: money" "I guess it comes down to decadence" .. "The point is for you to feel bad about how awesome my life is." Who the fuck cares?! If you're going to write about nothing at least make it funny.

This kind of shit has plagued the *Gateway* for the whole year. What happened to that bite from the old days? Mike Winters and Chris Boutet were the one-two punch, and the cartoons were actually funny. I say grinders like Rozenhart should step aside for one issue and learn a thing or two from pros like Winters, Boutet and Iva Cheung.

NAVIN JAGASIA
Science V

Berry's 'Green Figurine' criticism unfounded

Perhaps what really deserves the Burlap Sack is the attempt to dismiss an intelligent idea without any rationale (David Berry's Burlap Sack, 13 November). Maybe the Burlap Sack should be reserved for those that write off ideas without so much as substantiating their arguments. So much for the world of tolerance because apparently Mr David "Burlap Sack" Berry wants to give us a vicious beating.

You mentioned that it was some "clever fundamentalists" behind the Green Figurine campaign. You might be interested to know that not every person who follows Jesus is a fundamentalist. Anglicans, Baptists, Catholics, Lutherans, Christian Reformed and Presbyterians, to name a few, do not all carry the "fundamentalist" viewpoint. The point that they do agree upon is the central message that God has given us the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

By the way, have you noticed the motto of our "fine University" Mr Berry? *Quaecumque vera* translates to "Whatsoever things are true" and is directly from the Bible. "Finally, brothers, *whatever is true*, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things." (Phillipians 4:8)

What really motivates me to share the life of Jesus with another person is what I have experienced personally. Forgiveness changes a person and it causes them to want to share this message with all who are interested. We are only suggesting that the life of Jesus Christ is worth looking into.

Jesus Christ states: "I am the truth, the way and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6) Now this wasn't a very popular message was it, Mr Berry? Got him a vicious beating, didn't it? In fact, his unpopular message got Him crucified. Fortunately, that wasn't the end of the story. That was Friday, but Sunday wasn't far off.

We invite you, and everyone that has questions or statements to make, to come and speak their minds this Thursday in the Myer Horowitz theatre at 12:30pm.

TREVOR FROEHLICH
Edmonton
RYAN LAWRENCE
Engineering III

Keep up the good work, *Gateway*

Contrary to what Bif Johanssen may think ("Enough with the pointless drivel, *Gateway*," 18 November), the *Gateway* is still a "hotbed of controversy and interesting opinions." Thanks to our illustrious student newspaper, I look forward to Tuesdays and Thursdays despite their torturously long lectures and confusing schedule abbreviations.

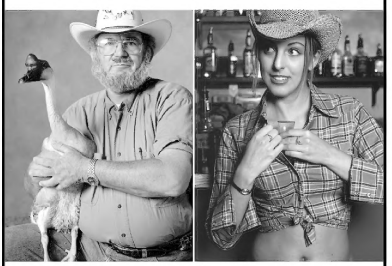
The *Gateway* has yet to disappoint me in my short tenure on campus, always delivering news and opinions that are relevant to me and delivering them in an interesting and often hilarious manner. Ironically, accompanying Mr Johanssen's letter in the very same edition were opinion articles about the Canadian military, the effectiveness of the SU, ethics education in the School of Business, and many others that were both thought provoking and entertaining. Judging by the noticeable lack of old papers sitting in distribution boxes, I'm not alone in my uncompromising love for the bastion of radness that is the *Gateway*.

So, Bif, maybe you should stick to solving mysteries with your brother Joe and leave the content of the paper up to the editors.

BRETT KNUTSON
Business II

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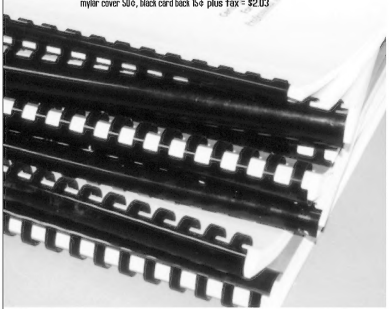
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Save trees: single-space your sentences



NICHOLAS TAM

Remember that much-ballyhooed Y2K crisis that shot duct-tape sales through the roof three years ago? It's not over yet. To this very day, the repercussions of technological limitations in the '70s continue to surreptitiously gnaw away at our civilization one literal bit at a time like a motorcycle gang of termites. We may have survived the failures of the digital pioneers with respect to time, but we have ignored our problems with space.

As an editor of several newsletters, I frequently receive submissions that exhibit a remarkable phenomenon with frightening consistency: for some reason, I often encounter two—count 'em, *two*—spaces between every sentence. Fully aware that proper grammatical instruction is nowadays sparser than missiles in Iraq, I initially suspected the possibility that an entire generation grossly misinterpreted double-spacing as a horizontal concept.

It turns out, however, that the origins of this gratuitous formatting error lie in a quirk of clarity in the early days of computing, when everybody still used fonts where every character was equally wide. Given that the only people who still use fixed-width typefaces are computer programmers and aspiring ASCII Rembrandts who paint with asterisks and dollar signs, neither of which employ full sentences anyway, there is absolutely no reason to put these artificial dramatic pauses between every statement you make. In fact, continuing to do this is clearly injurious to us all. Allow me to demonstrate with some bogus mathematical calculations.

In the cookie-cutter typeface that you probably used for your term paper about how the chemical composition of tartar sauce affects Clausewitzian foreign policy goals or whatnot—that is to say, Times New Roman, 12-point—a space usually prints as one millimetre in width. A line of text is three millimetres high (In case you are wondering: yes, I did verify this with my Ché Guevara "Stop Imperialism; Go Metric" ruler). If you've been following professorial regulations that encourage double spacing, this would put the employment of every space at the appropriation of six millimetres squared.

> **In one semester, ten thousand students writing five ten-page term papers at twenty sentences a page will consume sixty square metres of wasted space, or approximately one thousand leafs of standard letter-size stationery.**

In one semester, ten thousand students writing five ten-page term papers at twenty sentences a page will consume sixty square metres of wasted space, or approximately one thousand leafs of standard letter-size stationery.

This number doesn't look all that bad when you consider that it pales in comparison to the paper consumption of, say, the cute little labels on plastic bins with the "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" slogan and the arrowed Triforce of Conservation. But to put things in perspective, you essentially have enough processed pulp for an annual tuition campaign or a pig-Latin translation of *Don Quixote* going down the tubes every single term.

The problem becomes a far bigger deal when you consider the volume of verbiage exchanged via the Internet, where every extraneous space occupies an additional byte of data. The compounded transfer of these wasted bytes results in an egregious waste of bandwidth, and the insurmountable network congestion this constitutes only ends up impeding purposeful humanitarian initiatives such as the exchange of pornographic videos.

Media publications—be they either respectable or entitled the *Gateway*—must take a harsher stance toward perpetrators of this linguistic crime. Editors, and not just those with names that rhyme with Schmozenhart, are sick and tired of hitting the shortcut key for "find and replace" with every other scrap of copy they receive. It's time these erroneous submissions were rejected outright.

Furthermore, as postsecondary students and by induction, the ever-so-cliché "leaders of tomorrow," we have a responsibility to do our part as individuals to stamp out this mistake. In exactly ten words or less: use one space instead of two, you tree-killing dinks. Education students in particular have the added responsibility of stemming the propagation of this academic offence before it spreads to future generations like a venereal contagion.

If we do not curb excessive breaks between sentences soon, space may well be our final frontier.

A basketball game teaches tolerance



LAURA-LEE FARRELL

I love the adrenaline rush from intense competition: sweat dripping down your face, heart beating 100 miles an hour, and for that short stretch of time, there is no world outside of the court.

I've played basketball ever since I was a little girl, and I've always been competitive at sports. For the past two years, I've been the female sports representative for engineering, though as you can imagine with only two females out of every ten people in engineering, it's very difficult to put together a competitive women's basketball team. So, I registered one recreational women's team for my faculty, and I also registered a men's basketball team in campus recreation. To satisfy my competitive nature, I am playing on the men's basketball team.

While my team was warming up for our second league game, I was confronted with a very awkward situation. The captain of the other team approached the captain of my team. The opposing team's captain explained that they were a Muslim team and due to religious beliefs, they would not be able to closely guard me. My captain approached me with this information, and at first I was frustrated because I didn't want to change the way I played. I took the first shift on the bench for further reflection.

With respect to basketball in particular, guarding someone obviously entails coming into physical contact with that person, and Muslim men are only allowed to physically touch their wives or women they can't marry (their mothers, sisters, nieces, etcetera). When dealing with other women, men are to interact with them in a relatively formal manner as to ensure the sanctity of both the man and the woman, and to ensure that the chastity of both is maintained outside of wedlock. This is why the Muslim team could not guard me properly; they had to try to avoid coming into contact with me altogether.

Two opposing ideas were battling in my head, just like how you see on TV with the angel on one shoulder and a devil on the other. The little red guy on my shoulder was telling me that I shouldn't be concerned with the other team's problems, and I should play like I always do, whether I come in contact with them or not. On the other shoulder the little white guy was telling me that the little red guy was being selfish and I should respect the other team's beliefs and put forth an effort to make the opposing team comfortable.

I had a very rewarding experience on the basketball court. Despite the fact that I got more rebounds then I normally do while playing with giants, aka male basketball players, it was wonderful that both teams were able to find a comfort zone in which to play. I backed off when they gained possession of the ball, and I made a conscious attempt to avoid bumping into them. I was pleased that, in spite of the lax defense, they treated me like any other player on the court. The game ended, and as always the teams exchanged handshakes, and the Muslim team politely did not shake my hand.

I am so grateful to live in an environment where both the Muslim beliefs and a women's choice to participate in men's sports can both be respected.

THE BURLAP SACK

This sack beating goes out to all the bastards that keep insinuating that I look like Harry Potter. At first it was just random, washed-up drunks in sports bars, but since it has graduated to casual friends.

And while I'm at it, I might as well throw in JK Rowling, who inflicted this whole Harry Potter craze on the world, and that wankfest, me-look-a-like English prick who plays the intrepid apprentice wizard in the films.

All these muggles are enough to make me long for the days when a heartless but well-meaning old widow told me that I was so pretty she thought I was a girl. But until I learn the spell that shuts all of you the hell up, I'll have to settle for beating you senseless with my broomstick and playing rousing games of Quidditch. Fuckers.

DAVID BERRY

The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature but, no sack beatings are actually administered.

Democracy's not dead: just sick



RYAN BUBLEY

"The trend of voting for what looks best at the moment is alarming. If we look back not too long ago, we can see a population that was swayed by a leader with immense oratory skills, who promised them the moon. The population was Germany, the leader was Hitler."

Is democracy dead? No, just sick. And although apathy is a major problem in good governance, we often miss the actual mechanism by which apathy causes the necrosis of western government in our endless fixation on voter turnout percentages.

Even though you may think that the voter turnout of 63 per cent in the last federal election was a bad thing, it was in fact a step in the right direction. But how many people think that the 63 per cent of people who voted honestly knew enough about the various party platforms and parliamentary track records to make an informed choice? I certainly don't. The real problem corrupting western politics isn't just political apathy, but the general lack of political conscience amongst the people.

Somewhere in the course of our political history, citizens of the various nations of the world stopped paying attention to the politicians that governed them. We now see a multitude of people who vote not on a party proposing an exceptional national platform, but rather on flashy candidates who are in line with regional self-interest.

The Atlantic provinces are poor, so they vote NDP. The Canadian Alliance will address the concerns of the western provinces, which in turn hand over their votes to the CA. The Québécois are bright, and realize they can use the ghost of separatism past to pry what they wish out of the governing party, so they vote PQ. The Liberals cater to Ontario and effectively ensure themselves the next majority government.

Canadian federal parties have disintegrated into regionalist entities, and this is largely due to a lack of political education amongst voters. When it comes time to vote, people are most often swayed by glitzy promises and campaigns than actual track records. For a prime example of this we have to look no farther than the Liberal machine.

When Chrétien was elected he promised to abolish the GST. Did this happen? No. Under the Liberals we've seen the Department of Human Resource lose a billion dollars, we've witnessed the establishment of the money pit that is the gun registry, and we continue to suffer through the Sea King debacle, just to name a few things. But do you think anybody will remember this when they are checking off Liberal on their ballots? No. People have short memories and are too easily swayed by promises and gas rebates. Our political leaders are intelligent and realize this. They perpetually engage in contests of oneupmanship to persuade fickle voters to cast ballots in their favour.

The trend of voting for what looks best at the moment is alarming. If we look back not too long ago, we can see a population that was swayed by a leader with immense oratory skills, who promised them the moon. The population was Germany, the leader was Hitler. Anybody who was motivated enough to read *Mein Kampf* would realize he was a lunatic and let people know to beware. Nobody did.

Frankly, I think that people *shouldn't* vote, at least if you aren't properly informed on the issues and history of who you are voting for.

At least that's why I don't vote.

Do you have a licence for that baby?



TREVOR PANAS

You need a licence to drive a car, buy a gun, practice medicine, or even to operate a small motorized boat. We license these activities because society feels a certain level of knowledge and skill is required in order to safely perform them. They also carry more responsibility than non-licensed activities, and we acknowledge that only qualified persons should be permitted to perform them. We also realize if we allowed unqualified people to perform them, it would pose a grave danger to others in our society.

Why is it, then, when raising children is quite possibly the most responsibility-laden activity one can ever undertake, that anyone with a set of gonads between their legs or tucked up inside their pelvis is allowed to create and/or bear offspring?

Anyone who has ever set foot inside an elementary school, a youth shelter, or merely bothered to look around them when taking public transit has seen the results of allowing unqualified individuals to breed. Children going to school bruised, hungry, and inadequately clothed, teens running away from sexual and physical abuse, and babies born already disadvantaged due to preventable drug use are all direct results of allowing people to proliferate unchecked.

The primary victims of these uncensored spawnings are the children themselves, often destined from birth to suffer the most horrible conditions one can envision, doomed to live lives filled with neglect, hunger, pain and suffering. These children typically do poorly in school, are socially maladapted, and can grow up into lives of crime and poverty, fated to propagate the cycle anew with their own children. This not only hurts the children themselves, but society as well, as we must pay to police their activities and incarcerate them if they commit crimes. We licence so many other seemingly important things. Why not licence parents to have children?

Poverty, crime, hard drug use and violence are closely related to, and are at the core of the worst examples of child abuse. If licensing involved a few simple checks, we could eliminate the majority of the worst parents. First, potential parents should have to provide proof of financial means. You should not have to be wealthy, or even middle class, but if you cannot even afford to feed and house yourself, you cannot be expected to provide for a child. Qualification in this area should be established at a bare minimum, in order not to exclude any good parents who are somewhat less fortunate but still self-reliant.

Second, it's reasonable to expect that potential parents have no criminal convictions within the past three years, and no convictions ever for aggravated or sexual assault. I wouldn't exclude the impetuous youths who liked to throw a few good natured fisticuffs or pinch some fanny when younger, but I would turn away the Mike Tyson-types.

Lastly, you should have to pass a drug test. I don't mean the pot smokers, but if you can't quit the crack pipe long enough to pass a piss test, no kids for you.

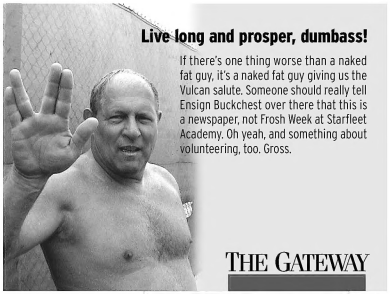
The problem, of course, is enforcing parental licensing. I'm at a loss to think of an ethical, reasonable way to force compliance. I'll also be the first to admit parental licensing won't exclude all bad parents from having kids, and would definitely prevent some potentially stellar moms and dads from raising awesome kids. I do, however, believe that licensing would drastically reduce the number of the most extreme victims of bad parenting, the kids that live through hell everyday.

I'm a steadfast believer that a person should be allowed to do whatever they choose, as long as it in no way harmfully effects others. As soon as a child is born to unqualified parents, these parents have a harmful effect on the child, which is henceforth a member of our society, and whom we have a responsibility to protect. When it comes to protecting children, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Dave Alexander's TOP TEN

Things confiscated during search of Michael Jackson's ranch

10 Life-sized portrait of Gary Glitter dressed as cupid.
9 Illegally over-clocked Bedazzler.
8 Dog-eared copy of *Men Are From Mars, Boys Are From Venus.*
7 Mummified remains from several of Liz Taylor's ex-husbands.
6 Beat up wax statues of Macaulay Culkin from Madame Tussaud's auction.
5 Videotape labeled "spy kids," which has nothing to do with any Hollywood movies.
4 Coat of human skin fancied up with epaulets, tassels and gold medals.
3 Fisher Price bondage gear.
2 Two-dozen shaved, pantless Oompah-Loompahs.
1 Secret portal in the bedroom closet that leads to his home world ... and the handsome unicorn that guards it.







ALL THE WORLD fears A CLOWN





WASHINGTON, D.C. — Forget spiders, death, and global thermonuclear war. It only takes four little words to send the pants of grown persons with your fear: send in the clowns. With their big feet and red noses, so-called funnymen from Ronald McDonald to Krusty the Clown are causing more grown-up shudders than high-powered thrillers. Perhaps we're afraid of these beasts because we can never know which behind is clown's white-painted face. We fear of the unknown, and perhaps we're also scared of the things clowns represent. Clowns are traditional symbols of anarchy and the irrational.

But is it perhaps even more irrational for us to fear and even hate entertainers and recreational social conservatives just because of some goopy makeup and a predilection for slapstick humor?

I HATE CLOWNS

Type "clowns" into Google. The first hit is www.ihateclowns.com. The site gets between 500 and 1000 visitors a day and sells merchandise like t-shirts with anti-clown slogans such as "Can't sleep, clowns will eat me," (a reference to *The Simpsons*). Rodney Blackwell, the site's creator and designer, says he isn't afraid of clowns because that would give them too much power. Instead, he likes to say, "I just don't like them." Blackwell thinks his dislike of clowns stems from seeing *The Wiz* too many times as a child. The film, an adaptation of *The Wizard of Oz*, featured Diana Ross, Michael Jackson, and an abundance of clowns. Blackwell feels that there are a lot of people who hate clowns, and he likes to think of his website as a sanctuary for the anti-clown community. In a perfect world, muses Blackwell, all clowns would be placed on a deserted island, just like lepers of yore.

Reviewing representations of clowns in pop culture as obnoxious and nightmarish creatures, Blackwell's clown colony fantasy seems appealing. A popular character on the early '90s sketch comedy show *In Living Color* was Damon Wayans' Homey D Clown, an abrasive clown who, when asked to perform a gag, uttered his trademark, "Homey don't play that," while whollloping people over the head.

Homey's only the beginning. Rock band Insane Clown Posse dresses up as demonic clowns. Stephen King's novel, *It*, brought the evil-clown stereotype to new levels with the character of Pennywise the Clown, a child murderer. The evil-clown even finds a place in science fiction like *Killer Klowns from Outer Space*, in which evil alien clowns come to small-town America where they use mutant popcorn and cotton candy to harvest the town's inhabitants.

Blackwell feels that "in general, clowns as a people are bad."

But anti-clown sentiment seems to be unfounded. Constable Sarah Bloom of the Vancouver police could not recall any crimes committed by clowns in Vancouver. Staff Sgt Barry Hickman of the University of British Columbia (UBC) RCMP said flat out, "There is no reason to fear clowns at UBC."

Are there rational reasons to fear or hate clowns? David



Jacobi, a post-doctoral student of psychiatry at UBC, acknowledges clowns can be scary.

"IN GENERAL, CLOWNS AS A PEOPLE ARE BAD."

Rodney Blackwell, creator of www.ihateclowns.com

"Through a child's eyes, clowns can be very threatening," Jacobi says, noting a childhood fear of clowns could turn into a discomfort with clowns by adulthood. Jacobi, who works at the anxiety disorders unit at UBC, says that no one in the psychiatry department has seen a patient with a fear of clowns. But he says, like other phobias, such as the fear of heights or the fear of spiders, the fear of clowns is common. But since these fears don't often interfere with day to day functioning, people don't often seek medical attention. The fear of clowns is called coulrophobia. It's just one of many fears the Phobia Clinic, an online clinic people can call to receive help with their phobias deals with. Using methods based on neuro-linguistic programming, (reprogramming how the brain reacts to certain stimuli, such as clowns), for $1000, The Phobia Clinic promises to cure you of your fear of clowns within 24 hours of therapy, guaranteed.

Most of the Phobia Clinic's business comes from fear of public speaking, says the clinic's president and founder, Seymour Signet. But, says Signet, there is only one fear—fear itself. "Everyone knows that it's ridiculous to be afraid of clowns." But, he says, to the individual person, the fear is very real.

"The way we feel about anything has to do with the way our mind is storing it," says Signet. According to him, when we see a clown our first reaction might not be fear. Instead, our brain will simply ask itself, 'Oh, I see a clown, how should I react?' But if we had a negative clown experience in our past, the brain would tell us to be afraid.

"THERE IS NO REASON TO FEAR CLOWNS."

Staff Sgt Barry Hickman, University of British Columbia RCMP

In order to cure people of their fears, The Phobia Clinic uses methods such as anchoring, where a positive emotion is brought in to associate with a negative stimulus. There is also Time Line Therapy™, which is "a way of assisting people in letting go of negative emotions to past experiences."

UBC postdoctoral psychiatry student David Jacobi suggested the fear of clowns would typically be treated through gradual exposure to clownery until the patient becomes habituated. He specifically warns that "what often maintains fears is avoidance," Blackwell, from www.ihateclowns.com, mentions his local paper once tried to cure him of his coulrophobia by taking the exposure approach. He was put in a room with a clown to see how he'd react. "I got to know the person behind the makeup. I thought they were nice, but I still couldn't understand why they chose to wear the clown makeup."

DEAD IN THE CLOWNS

It's not just the makeup; Blackwell doesn't dig how clowns "don't understand what's funny or where the limits are."

Ask a clown, though, and they'll tell you the last thing they want is to bother people. Lisa Voth, a theatre student at Simon Fraser University (SFU) who has taken several clown theory courses, relates that when she clowned at the Vancouver Folk Festival, she purposely avoided people who didn't want to interact with her. "I think there is a responsibility on the part of a clown to develop a relationship and feel where the person you are interacting with is."

Marcel Lebrun, a performing arts and music teacher at an elementary school in North Vancouver works part-time as Twister the Clown, performing at everything from birthday parties to school assemblies. Twister, like many clowns, juggles, rides a unicycle and twists balloons. And says Lebrun, as it's an important part of clowning, Twister respects people and their space."Whenever I encounter kids that are afraid of me, I pretend I'm afraid of them," he says, adding that getting in the child's face is the wrong thing to do.

Taking clowning very seriously, Lebrun sees himself as an entertainer first. "Bringing professionalism to clowning is one of the most important parts of it," he adds.

Some of Twister's professional rules are that he always goes to parties already dressed, never eats during a performance and even tries not to go to the bathroom while Twister.

Despite his professionalism, Lebrun admits he has been affected by the negative imagery surrounding clowns, and he has tried to shape Twister's character as a positive response to it all. "Krusty [from *The Simpsons*] breaks all the rules of the professional clown," says Lebrun. "One of the reasons I'm moving away from the traditional clowns is because of the stigma associated with them."

Like Lebrun, David MacMurray-Smith takes clowning very seriously. MacMurray-Smith teaches clowning (or clownology, if you will) at his studio, Fantastic Spaces Enterprises. "I don't think kids need clowns anyways," says MacMurray-Smith. "They need playmates. Adults need clowns."

To MacMurray-Smith, who is also a theatre professor at SFU, clowning is about confronting the myths surrounding reality. "Clowns can challenge you to think," he says. "We can't be all about civil order—we have to relax."

MacMurray-Smith teaches his theories in a class called "Creative character development and personal transformation through clown." He feels his studio is a place for studying the nature of human performance and likes to use clowning as a way for performers to investigate themselves, their humanity.

Lisa Voth is one of MacMurray-Smith's former students and she also views clowning as an exploration of the human condition. She does not associate clowns with the costumes, balloons and makeup, and instead views clowning as a new way to approach things and interact with the world. For her, clowns explore aspects of people that they don't necessarily explore themselves. She feels this is why people are afraid of clowns. Many of us don't want to explore certain parts of ourselves.

The clown is a provocateur, says MacMurray-Smith, and that's why we dislike him. A clown drawing attention to himself provokes people because, MacMurray-Smith explains, people don't want the clown to come close because then other people will notice them through the clown's interaction. "When you're seen publicly, you're given the challenge of looking at yourself through other people's eyes, because you're often judging yourself through what you think other people are seeing."

"CLOWNS CAN CHALLENGE YOU TO THINK. WE CAN'T BE ALL ABOUT CIVIL ORDER—WE HAVE TO RELAX."

David MacMurray-Smith, drama professor, Simon Fraser University

MacMurray-Smith believes the fear of clowns is understandable, saying, "it's a scary thing to be asked to readjust your perception of your reality." But, by being able to readjust your perceptions, he argues the clown plays an important role. Clowns can help break down social images. And let's not forget that for many, clowns make them laugh.

People who react to clowns with fear are missing the point, MacMurray-Smith feels. According to him, we all live in our own realities and clowns are a necessary tool to help us explore that reality. "If you can't laugh at yourself," he says, "you are missing the biggest joke of your life."

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photo illustrations: [illegible]

THE PEP RALLY

Volleyball

Far from endangered, the **Pandas** (5-1) return to action this weekend. They once again meet those mountain lions of the prairies, the nasty University of Regina Cougars. The Cougars, who are naturally old, wrinkly and trying to hump little boys, are also surprisingly undefeated, which just goes to show not everything from Saskatchewan sucks. Enjoy the exciting, floor-pounding action that features more spikes than a shoe store at 6:30pm Friday and 8pm Saturday.

The increasingly rare **Golden Bears** (4-0) are also in town this weekend, and they're also facing the only team we ever seem to play, oh yes, the Cougars. Their men's "V-Ball team" have been doing about as well as our women's basketball team (see below), but since they refuse to just forfeit and save themselves the embarrassment, not to mention the gas money, the games go in the Main Gym at 8pm Friday and 6:30pm Saturday

Hockey

As predicted in this column earlier, the **Bears** (10-0-0) are still undefeated ten games into the season, as the little numbers in parentheses indicate. Surprise, surprise, they travel to that lovely town that sounds like a part of the female anatomy, Regina, to face the Cougars. The games go at 6:30pm both Friday and Saturday evenings.

In other hockey-related news, I am officially a nihilist, as Bob "I'm not calling any games this weekend" Stauffer is *not* going to be calling either of the games. What happened Hot Stauff? How am I to know what the Bears are doing if your sweet, dulcet tones aren't beaming over the airwaves? I used to believe in you man; now I don't believe in nothing. I'm going to law school.

The equally undefeated **Pandas** (8-0-0) mosey on out to Winnipeg this weekend to face the University of Manitoba Bisons. I'm sure they'll do well on 6pm both Friday and Saturday, but Hot Stauff isn't calling their games either. Who can think of sports at a time like this, really? As if my life wasn't empty enough already, now this ... Damn you Stauffer, damn you to the hell which I no longer believe in because of you.

Basketball

Those so-called "hoopsters" the **Bears** (2-2) travel down Highway 2 to play the role of asteroid in their games against the University of Calgary Dinos. The games go at 8:15pm both Friday and Saturday. What's the matter Bob, couldn't even make a little three hour car trip to call some B-ball and save my life, you inconsiderate jerk?

The very-defeated **Pandas** (0-4) also head down to Calgary to meet the Dinos. They also play at the same time both Friday and Saturday, in this case at 6:30pm. And they also are not getting their games called by prettyboy Bob Stauffer. I think it's obvious that Bob Stauffer hates University athletics, not to mention puppies.

Bob, You're Dead to Me

If you're like me this weekend, you will be curled up in a ball of existential angst, weeping like a small child and whispering the words "Hot Stauff" while you release a snow globe that subsequently shatters on the marble floor, after which you will die.

Or you could watch the Heritage Classic, featuring both the Legends game and the NHL's first modern outdoor game. Or celebrate the Eskimos Grey Cup.

Or listen to the tapes you've made of past Bears games just to try to make it through the cold, heartless weekend. I don't even have the heart to tell Joel how much he and his Flames suck. Bob ...

SEXY DAVE BERRY
Sports Nihilist



CAPTAIN LEO Golden Bear co-captain Leo Carroll (14) leads his teammates into battle this weekend against Regina.

FILE PHOTO: LEANNE FUNG

Volleyball Bears set to take on Cougars

RYAN OHASHI
Sports Writer

When the program lists you at 6'9" and you spend your summer as the co-captain of the Canadian junior national team, it's easy to demand respect. But in the case of Bears volleyball co-captain Leo Carroll, respect is something that has no doubt been earned.

The third-year middle shrugged off the sophomore jinx last season (after being chosen as a CIS All-rookie in his first year) and not only finished the season second in Canada West in blocks, but was an integral piece in getting the Bears all the way to last year's national championship match. This year, Carroll, who has often been surrounded by all-star veteran talent, such as 2002/03 Bears captain and CIS player of the year Pascal Cardinal, is the sole remaining player from last season's starting six. The Edmonton native and Strathcona Composite graduate feels prepared to take on the challenge of a new role.

"I think this summer really helped me out; it doesn't seem as big a step for me now because on the junior national team I had sort of the same role," said Carroll on his being named co-captain. "For sure it's different than it has been here the last couple of years here, but I'm enjoying it."

Carroll is not alone in his new challenge, as this year he's joined by a worthy supporting cast, including two of his junior national teammates, setter Brock Davidiuk and outside hitter Nicholas Cundy, who along with other co-captain Aaron Schulha won two Canadian Colleges Athletics Association national titles. While Schulha's a vocal leader, Carroll appears to be the more restrained of the two.

"I think having co-captains [Aaron and myself] is a really good thing, because we do both bring different things to the team," said Carroll.

Thus far this season, the system seems to be working, as the team is 4-0 in conference play. The Bears remain number one in the CIS Volleyball rankings going into this weekend against the unranked Regina Cougars. However, the Cougars only win so far this year came just this past weekend over the defending national champion Manitoba Bisons. Also, the Bears may have to go into this weekend without Schulha, who landed awkwardly on his right knee early in Saturdays win and did not return.

Coach Terry Danyluk noted that though the Cougars aren't as highly touted, they shouldn't be taken lightly. "In our conference, every weekend is a tough weekend, whether teams have full rosters or not full rosters or whether its Regina or Manitoba—it doesn't really matter and you gotta be prepared to play them," said Danyluk.

Carroll places a lot of value on the team's preparation and scouting. "Every game that we play is pretty important and you have to prepare the exact same way for every team, that's what our team thinks anyways and that's kind of mentality you have to be in."

The Bears versus Cougars matchup begins this Friday at 7pm in the Main Gym and wraps up at the same time Saturday evening.

Also playing will be the Pandas who make their return from a two-game sweep in Manitoba to face Regina. The top-ranked Pandas begin their games this upcoming Friday and Saturday evenings at 6:30pm.

University's sports program having banner year

Alberta teams have taken home two out of seven possible CIS championships in young season

JOEL CHURY
Sports Editor

Winning is something that's easy to get used to. Always a strong presence on the varsity sports scene, the University of Alberta sports program has completed all of its first-half-only sports schedule, coming away with two CIS championship banners (Bears soccer and Pandas rugby) to be hung in the already-crowded rafters and hallways. The program has much to boast about in this year so far, and athletics director Kim Gordon is happy with what she sees.

The program has gained such a reputation around the league and on campus that losing has become a foreign concept. "We're trying to be the best in Canada from a performance standpoint," boasted Gordon. "And you get the best performance because you hire the best coaches."

Gordon attributes part of the program's success to the movement towards full-time employment of the coaching staff, and this commitment to coaching seems to be spreading across the CIS. "More and more schools are starting to move towards full-time coaches, as more and more people are becoming serious about Canadian University sport," said Gordon. "If you're going to run a competitive program you have to have full-time coaches." The full-time staffing not only results in better-trained athletes, but it also improves the year-round recruiting process.

But recruiting the players has proven to be easier than recruiting fans for the program. Increasing exposure to the public has been a difficulty for schools across the country. Efforts have been made at the U of A to increase awareness in the varsity sports program, including radio broadcasts for the Bears football and hockey teams, webcasts for basketball games, student discounted ticket prices, and the student run A-Team sports promotional organization. From the Canada West conference standpoint, the western schools are also getting more media coverage, including coverage of the Hardy Cup football game on Rogers Sportsnet. "[As a conference] we're always looking for ways to get us on television, and get us in front of the public," said Gordon. "It's such a great product, with student athletes who are not only balancing an academic schedule with an athletic one at such a high level."

Canada West in particular has proven itself as a force to be reckoned with as five of the seven national titles so far this year have gone to the conference (two Alberta, two UBC, and one Calgary). With stronger competition at the conference level, when placed on the national stage, western teams have had an advantage.

As league parity improves, the varsity sports product is sure to gain more recognition, if not with just the media, but with student populations in general. Case in point is the Golden Bears football program that improved not only its record, but its attendance figures as well. "My impression was that we had good turnouts for every game, and boy it would've been nice to host a playoff game," said Gordon. "Next year we'll do that. One step at a time."

As the school's winning tradition continues, with time it will gain wider recognition not just on a media level, but among students as well.



FILE PHOTO: SHAWN BENBOW

GIMME A 'K' Pandas Rugby won gold medal.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: ROBIN CULLUM

SOON TO BE UNEMPLOYED Getting rid of goaltenders is the answer to all complaints about lack of hockey scoring.

It's time to put goalies out of work



JAKE TROUGHTON

Sports Commentary

The days of Wayne Gretzky scoring 200 points per season are long past. Scoring in hockey has declined drastically, to the point that recording a 20-goal season is considered sufficiently amazing that an NHL player achieving such lofty heights inevitably feels it necessary to practice with the Golden Bears while sitting out and demanding a multi-million dollar raise.

The game's low-and-falling scoring frequency has generated much controversy, with many pundits arguing that the game would be more exciting if more goals were generated, and suggesting various "adjustments" toward that end.

Some of these have been interesting ("Let's ditch the red line to encourage long passes!"), some have been desperate ("Let's take a player away from each team!"), but most have just been silly ("Let's call a penalty every 26 seconds and completely destroy the flow of the game!"). But there's an obvious solution, overlooked by nearly everyone: hockey needs to take a page from basketball's book and outlaw goaltending.

Though the idea of hockey borrowing rules from basketball is admittedly highly unorthodox, upon reflection it makes a certain amount of sense. They may look different, but at heart they are actually profoundly similar sports. Each game features two teams of a handful of players whose ultimate goal is to propel some sort of roundish object toward some sort of net. Yet despite being 20 per cent shorter than hockey games and requiring a much larger object to penetrate a much smaller target—that's ten feet off the ground, no less—basketball games can routinely feature up to 50 times as many scores.

It's no wonder that there isn't enough scoring in hockey when a heavily padded player with an oversized stick is permitted to interfere with the legitimate scoring attempts of the opposition.

Since basketball is so much better suited to offense, it only makes sense for hockey to look to its cousin for ideas to end its own scoring drought. One of the largest areas of rule differences between the two games, and the area that has the most effect on the amount of scoring, concerns goaltending—and the approaches taken by the respective sports couldn't be any more different.

Basketball quite sensibly prohibits players from interfering with a shot that would, if unobstructed, enter the basket. Scoring thrives because desperate opponents, who weren't good enough to prevent the shot being taken in the first place, are not allowed to smother the talents of shooters after the fact. The NBA places an emphasis on talent and skill—even extending to philosophical skill, as evidenced by the thought-provoking insistencein the official NBA rulebook that, for a goaltending violation to occur by way of trapping, "the hand, the ball and the backboard must all occur at the same time."

Hockey, though, doesn't merely allow this blatantly unfair act: it actively encourages it by actually including a position called "goaltender," with entire sets of rules dedicated to his privileges and protection. With the full consent and encouragement of the rulebook, this player is able to thwart, with impunity, the scoring attempts of the opposition. The so-called "highlight" reels on television are filled with examples of excellent shots being unjustly robbed of their chance to bulge the twine by this masked heel.

It's no wonder that there isn't enough scoring in hockey when a heavily padded player with an oversized stick is permitted to interfere with the legitimate scoring attempts of the opposition. Hockey's rulemakers must find the wisdom to outlaw this ridiculous practice, as basketball has, and finally allow the talents of shooters to shine through.

Not only would this noticeably raise the level of the game, but no more would long-suffering NHL fans be victims of a dearth of scoring inconsistent with the enterprising spirit of the game.

Welcome to Edmonton, Adam Oates



DAVE BERRY

Sports Commentary

Break out the champagne: for the first time since the current Collective Bargaining Agreement took effect, the unrestricted free agent clause actually benefited our beloved Oilers. Instead of having promising talent stolen away as they entered their prime or picking up some nameless castoff from the AHL, the Oil actually *signed* somebody who played in the NHL last year; the once-legendary Adam Oates.

It's been a long wait for us poor Oil fans. In the last five years alone, we've seen the departure of such talents as Doug Weight, Curtis Joseph, Bill Guerin, Roman Hamrlik and most recently Janne Niinimaa, Anson Carter and Todd Marchant. Each of them were lost for reasons no more complicated than the fact we could no longer afford to pay their growing salaries, which is why it made my heart fill up with pride when word came across the wire that Oatesey would soon be skating in the blue and copper.

Granted, the guy's 41 years old, and would probably be a better fit in the upcoming Ford MegaStars legends game than in the Heritage Classic, but the bottom line is he's the first veteran player with established talent that we've managed to pick up since Gretzky left town. And if that isn't reason enough to get excited, then move to Denver and cheer for the Avalanche, ass.

Let's face facts, folks, Edmonton is prospect town. The only players who strap on the skates for the Oilers that haven't played in our system are the "up-and-comers" that we get when we trade away our soon-to-be-rich, not-quite-unrestricted free agents. So now that we've gone out and picked up an established, talented (1402 points in 1277 games) player that isn't named Dopita, our excitement is justified.

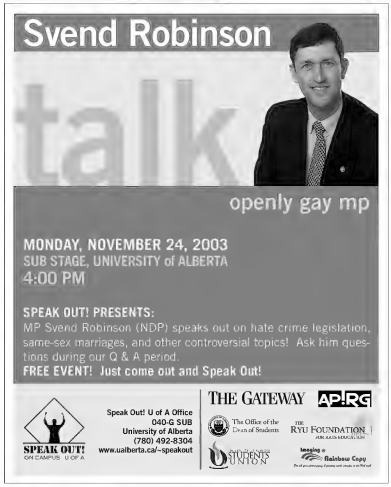
Oates probably isn't the savior that will propel the Oilers into the second or third round of the playoffs, but he does represent a shift, even if it is a minor one, in Oiler dogma. He represents the hope that, provided we can survive the impending labour strife coming next year, we might just be able to build ourselves into a contender, and not just a perennial first-round knockout.



The "w" stands for "wacky!"

What chiseled chins! What greasy hair! We all know this is the true meaning of sport! Just think, no one would even know about these these corking young lads unless a brave soul went out, took daguerrotypes, and wrote about all their Herculean feats. That someone can be you. Come write for us and you'll be even happier than when Vanderbilt trounced those unsavoury Yale chappies back in '17. Bastards.

THE GATEWAY







Top seven mascot-related follies



ROSS PRUSAKOWSKI
Sports Commentary

Some of them make you laugh, some of them make you cry, and in Ace Ventura's case they cost you a $25 000 reward for finding some rich person's lost bird. But a mascot's job is to entertain the crowd while withstanding the occasional buck to the junk, and when they venture outside their job description they cause embarrassment for their team.

Here now are seven examples of mascots whose unique follies are worth noting:

7. BLITZ (L'ALLOUETTES DU MONTRÉAL)

The careless wielding of Blitz's large beak in the face of a CFL official caused a 25-yard Al's penalty and a $5000 fine for the large inflatable pigeon. Not only did the birdbrain lose a paycheque or two, but he also lost the love of head coach Don Matthews, who expressed that if the decision was up to him, he'd have Blitz fired.

6. MARINER MOOSE (SEATTLE MARINERS)

Towed behind a pickup truck and wearing in-line skates, the Moose lost control and plowed into the leftfield wall, breaking his ankle. The stunt was unsuccessful, but did reach legendary proportions thanks to Fox Sports World's sports-disaster highlight reel show *You Gotta See This*. Visible broken bones always equal higher ratings!

5. THUNDERBUG (TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING)

What is it with Floridians and sticking mascots on top of large buildings? Remember that Disney commercial when Mickey was standing on top of that globe thing at Epcot Centre and waving? Fast forward to last year's playoffs, the Lightning hockey club felt that they needed to stir interest, competing with local footballers the Buccaneers for Tampa love. They stuck the poor bastard on top of the St Pete Times Arena until a sellout was achieved, luring him up there with a porch light.

4. PAISLEY PANDA (ST MIRREN FC)

This soccer mascot was merely *minding the gap* before he lost his job for using an opposing team's jersey as butt-floss in a game last month. This was the third inflammatory incident in two years for the black-and-white bamboo eater, as he'd previously taunted another team's fans using an inflatable sheep, and another rival about their lack of a stadium.

3. WILD WING (MIGHTY DUCKS OF ANAHEIM)

Wild Wing's career has been tumultuous to say the least. Whether it's being flambéed during a home opener fire-ring stunt, or falling three stories Blue Blazer style after his cable snapped, this maimed mallard can't seem to catch a break.

2. ITALIAN SAUSAGE (MILWAUKEE BREWERS)

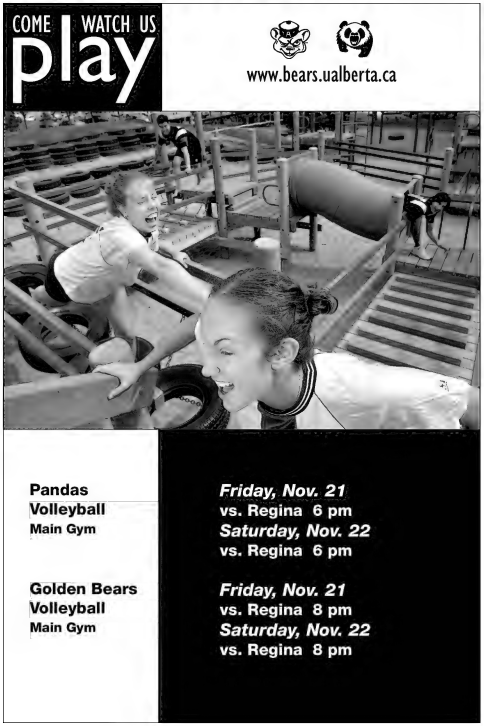
Pittsburgh Pirate Randall Simon swung his bat at the head of the wiener who was competing in a footrace to determine the best of the wurst. Simon hit the Italian Sausage during its race against rival hot dogs Bratwurst and Polish Sausage. With his next game back against the Brewers, Simon made amends, buying 300 fans Italian sausages and spurring on a sausage party of his own.

1. HARVEY THE HOUND (CALGARY FLAMES)

Mac got your tongue? This disobedient dawg strayed too close to the neighbour's yard and paid the price, as during a battle of Alberta, Oilers head coach Craig MacTavish could no longer stand Harvey's presence behind the bench. He reached up and silenced the puzzled pooch by ripping out the canine's red felt tongue. Tempting fate, Harvey returned later that evening with an even longer tongue attached. This produced the short-lived craze of red felt "rally tongues" that were handed out to Flames fans in the aftermath, becoming the first disembodied appendage to be used as a promotional tool.



GUBA Our mascot has a clean past.





Simply a punk success

A Simple Plan
with Gob
Sunday, 23 November
Red's

MICHAEL LAROCQUE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

They're covered in blood. They're holding a skinned fox carcass. They're the Canadian pop-punk band A Simple Plan, and they've hit the big time.

"PETA (People For The Ethical Treatment of Animals) had a booth at the Warped Tour this summer, so (drummer) Chuck Comeau and I approached them about doing an advertisement," explains Simple Plan's guitarist Sebastian Lefebvre, through a barely-there French-Canadian accent. "We knew that they were going to bring in a dead animal and put blood on us, but when we got there, it smelled so bad that it was just horrible. The disturbing thing was that they had to skin it that same morning in the parking lot, but the worst part is that some people do that for real. I've always thought that is was weird that people would support killing animals just so they could look good."

You may not have seen the ad, but chances are you have heard of A Simple Plan. Formed back in 1999, they struck it big with their first single "I'm Just A Kid," which garnered them a spot on *The New Kid* soundtrack and frequent airplay on television and radio. A Simple Plan's rise to success has been riddled with lucky breaks like that, and they're the first to admit it. They had a record contract before they even had enough songs for a record, and were invited onto the MTV program *Total Request Live* during a feature week of new artists. But over a year and a half since their 2002 debut album *No Pads, No Helmet... Just Balls!*, A Simple Plan has crossed five continents and played over 300 shows, building a huge fan base and a proving that, despite their luck, they want to be the hardest-working band in rock 'n roll.

"Since the record came out we haven't had much time off," says Lefebvre from the band's hometown of Montréal. "We started going out on tour and didn't stop until the end of the Warped Tour this year. It was like 18 months of non-stop shows and touring, touring, touring, but it was doing what we love to do; playing the shows is the best part."

> **"I don't get to talk to any of my friends from high school and I'm not even so sure they're still my friends."**
>
> **SEBASTIAN LEFEBVRE**

With a new tour beginning this week, the band has been fine-tuning their act, but as Lefebvre explains, they are anything but dismayed for their vacation time to end. "When I'm on tour I can't wait to get home, then I sleep for three days and I'm bored—we can't wait to go back out there."

Despite a flourishing career, a hit record and boyish punk-rock haircuts that make every Le Chateau-shopping girl's heart melt, Lefebvre admits that there is a personal price to pay for their fame. "I don't get to talk to any of my friends from high school and I'm not even so sure they're still my friends. Since we're on the road all the time, I can't call them everyday and people grow apart," he explains. "They're doing school and I'm doing my band. That's probably the thing that sucks the most: you lose your friends because you're never home, but you make new friends and try to balance it out."



Controversial ads, unwavering work ethic and high school sentimentality aside, it's clear that this punk-pop quintet has the drive to succeed, and knows what it takes to make it in the music business. With another tour and a new record on the horizon, A Simple Plan doesn't expect another vacation anytime soon.



SIMPLY SEBASTIAN LEFEBVRE

On playing at Hilary Duff's 16th birthday
We put some kick into Hilary's duff. She's really hot. It's too bad that she's too young though: she's jailbait!

On lead singer Pierre Bouvier
He's the party dude. He likes to have a good time after shows, but he's a bit of an exhibitionist when he's drunk. He has a tendency to get naked... it just happens.

On his previous day-job
The last year of high school, the principal thought the school could save money if the students cleaned up the gymnasium at night. I volunteered because I needed the money and one time this guy playing soccer hurt his leg then I had to call an ambulance. I also had to clean up his blood which was all over the floor.

On blatant product placement during the interview
[Asks me to ask him about their DVD]. It comes out 25 November. There is a new song on it called "Crash and Burn" and it's basically us acting stupid for two hours. It's informative too, though. It's informative on how stupid we can be.

Hot Hot Heat teeters on worldwide hipster stardom

Victoria-based band pleasantly surprised by mounting success

Hot Hot Heat
with The Unicorns
Saturday, 22 November
Red's

HEATHER ADLER
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Thanks to the recent rebirth of garage rock, Victoria's own Hot Hot Heat have found themselves one of the frontrunners in the great hipster-hair-and-corduroy-pant race. Since signing with the infamous Seattle-based SubPop records, they have also garnered themselves a major label deal with Warner Music and been on a perpetual worldwide tour. Bassist Dustin Hawthorne says he can't help but be surprised by the success their two albums, *Knock Knock Knock* and *Make Up The Break Down* have had, but he certainly isn't complaining.

"I grew up playing in punk rock bands and the last thing I ever thought was that people in the scene would listen to us, let alone have our songs on the radio," Hawthorne explains over the phone from their current touring locale in the UK. "I'd heard our songs on college radio for a long time, but the first time a song came on the big alternative rock station in Victoria, I was like 'holy shit, this is strange!'"

Hot Hot Heat's latest album, *Make Up The Break Down*, was recorded in just six days in a frenzied attempt to put out a sophomore album that could help push the band from local favorites to a hot-as-shit international phenomenon. "We just put our noses to the grindstone and went for it," Hawthorne laments. "We were used to doing things like that because of the scene we grew up in where we had little-to-no recording budget all the time and so we'd just try to record albums really quickly." But the risky investment has paid off for the group, who has since been globetrotting on tour, slowly making their way up the charts and earning rave reviews from such diverse publications as *Rolling Stone* and the *New York Times*.

"Some of the songs sound like they lean a little more towards punky new-age music, so it does surprise me that it's had such a widespread appeal," Hawthorne remarks of the band's recent critical acclaim. "Out intention wasn't really to get mainstream success when we made this album; we just thought 'cool, lets make a record so we can go on tour.' We never thought we should write songs to make other people happy."

Whether it was on purpose or not, Hawethorne says that he can see what it is about the group's danceable Clash-meets-Elvis-Costello sound that has recently perked the fickle ears of the world. "There is a certain amount of accessibility to our music because it's not completely pop music, but it does have an element of pop to it and there are hooks and choruses that people can sing along to," he notes. "It's also got this weird element of urgency that makes it feel like it can fall apart at any moment." While the group has so far only received moderate attention in the world's trendmaking capital of the United States, Hawthorne says the overseas crowds have been far easier to fire up with their hot tunes. "Europeans seem to be really up to date with what's going on and what's new and hot, so they really embrace new music a lot easier," he explains. "In middle America, they are still firmly holding onto their nu-metal and Staind; they are definitely afraid to change, whereas overseas they are a little more keen to try something new whether or not it's a genre that is accepted to be cool at that point. I'm sure we'll win over America eventually; they just need more convincing."



gateway student journalism society

OMBUDSBOARD MEMBERS NEEDED

The Gateway Student Journalism Society requires one University of Alberta faculty member and two students-at-large from the University community to serve on its Ombudsboard.

Applicants may not be a Society member, a member of the *Gateway* staff, a member of the U of A Students' Union Students' Council, an employee of the Students' Union, nor a member of the Students' Union Discipline, Interpretation and Enforcement (DIE) Board.

If you are interested, please submit a brief paragraph (no more than 400 words) regarding why you would be a good candidate for one of these positions to the Chair of the GSJS Board of Directors.

Information regarding the specifics of these positions can be found in the GSJS bylaws, Articles 9 and 10, posted on the GSJS website: **http://www.gateway.ualberta.ca/gsjs/**

For more information, or to submit an application, please contact the Chair of the GSJS Board of Directors through e-mail at **gsjs@gateway.ualberta.ca** or by telephone at **780.492.6669.** Applications may also be dropped off in person at the Gateway offices in 3-04 SUB.



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(includes airfare, accommodation and activities)

*Ex. Calgary. Taxes and surcharges not included. Dates may vary. Certain fares apply only to students with a valid ISIC card or to youth with a IYTC card

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SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

The Visit
Second Space, Timms Centre
Now Playing

Abbedam, the campus-based, student-run production company for drama students, is putting on a production of Friedrich Dürrenmatt's "The Visit." The play, which is a classic of modern German theatre that touches on themes of corruption, revenge, scapegoating and justice, will mark the directorial debut of Jonathan Seinen. You might know Seinen from his writing chops behind Walterdale Theatre's controversial production of "[Iceland]" and his work at the Playwright's Garage with Vern Theissen.

Check out the newly renovated Second Playing Space in the Timms Centre and take in a little culture this weekend.

Erick Morillo
The Standard
Friday, 21 November



New York-born DJ extrordinaire Erick Morillo will be spinning his brand of Latin, reggae and rap rhymes this weekend at the Standard. Morillo, who began DJing when he was just eleven years old, has released over 100 albums to date and has several radio smashes and underground club hits on his resumé.

Morillo will play gigs all across the globe, making stops in Greece, Malta, Amsterdam, Liverpool, Madrid, Belfast, Russia and even little old Edmonton. If you're ready to get the party started with some top-notch turntable chops, you're sure to find it here.

Babe Lloyd
Tim's Grill
Friday, 21 November



Babe Lloyd, the self-professed "eccentric yet accessible" Edmonton-based solo artist, will be bringing his bag of humourous, emotional, melodic and slightly daft tunes of to the modest stage of Tim's Grill this weekend.

With a comparative literature degree and many worldly travels under his belt, Lloyd is sure to please with literary punk tunes inspired by everything from Jello Biafra to Weird Al Yankovic and the quirks of modern culture. Lloyd sings, writes and plays all the instruments both live and on his recordings, so if you're looking for a bare-bones gig of pure local talent, this just might be the show for you.

HEATHER ADLER
Arts & Entertainment Editor

National Defence / Défense nationale





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ALEX MUIR
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Mo' Wax label owner, James Lavelle, returns once more, with a new cast of supporting characters for the latest Unkle album. Gone from the fold is DJ Shadow (replaced by Lavelle's childhood friend Richard File), and with him any semblance of that dark, intriguing sexuality that emanates from "trip-hop" (think Portishead, Massive Attack, Tricky, etc.). From the simple beats, typical melodies, and over-dramatized vocals about loneliness, love, and death it's clear that this album is a terribly inane, commercialised attempt to replicate trip-hop.

However, Lavelle hasn't completely copied the trip-hop formula; he's scattered the album with string interludes and echoing vocal samples, which render the whole experience cinematic. Listening to the album feels like watching a really sappy, pseudo-intelligent movie. The strongest track combines a decent tribal drum break with a euro-house pulse, reminiscent of Everything But the Girl, but it also shows off one of the main problems on this album: the music Unkle is creating hasn't gone anywhere in the five years since their last album *Psyence Fiction*.

The record certainly isn't unlistenable, it's just that there are countless other albums by artists working in similar territory that are much, much better.



Various Artists
Beautiful: A Tribute to Gordon Lightfoot
Borealis Records
www.borealisrecords.com

JAKE TROUGHTON
Arts & Entertainment Writer

There's an old *Star Trek* episode where a group of space hippies try to take over the *Enterprise* by playing a lot of really bad folk music. Captain Kirk and company eventually saved the day, but it seems that the hippies escaped and traveled back in time 264 years, where they produced *Beautiful: A Tribute to Gordon Lightfoot*.

It's not all bad; Blue Rodeo does a fine rendition of "Go Go Round," while The Tragically Hip manage to rock "Black Day In July" and still stay faithful to the original.

The rest is at best uninspired—one might ask Connie Kaldor what the point is of doing a "tribute" song that she is apparently quite uninterested in. At worst, it is painful to hear what has been done to some fine songs. Jesse Winchester performs a thorough butchering of "Sundown" that sounds like a pre-schooler has been let loose on the sound machine at a porn studio.

Most of the artists on this album are not very good and it's hard to see how the inane ramblings of a gang of hippies qualifies as a tribute.

Shedding light on Shadow Theatre

Shadow Theatre
Starring Aaron Talbot, James Hamilton and Michael Caron
Directed by Barbra French
Azimuth Theatre
21–29 November

DAVE BERRY
Arts & Entertainment Writer

One of the proudest moments of any parent comes after their children grow up, find their way in the world and inevitably return home with bucketloads of money to pay them back for all the years of nurturing, loving and university tuition. Well, okay, that doesn't exactly happen a lot, but if it did, then right now the University of Alberta's Drama Student Emergency fund would be playing the part of the parent and The Etcetera Theatre Collective would be in the role of the child looking to pay them back for all their wonderful support.

The Etcetera Theatre Collective, which Director Barbra French proudly fronts, is staging their newest work, *Shadow Theatre*, at the Azimuth in the coming week, with the proceeds going to raise money for U of A's Drama Student Emergency fund, which French explains helps needy MFA and MA drama students "when it comes down to paying rent or dropping out of school."

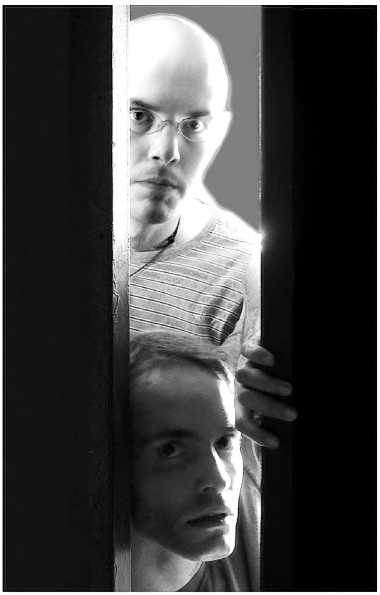
The importance of the fund isn't lost on French, or on the bulk of the company that has graduated or is still in the program. "We've all used it in the past, so if we can give something back to it, well, we would just love that," asserts French, who is also a recent graduate of the MFA and a lecturer at the U of A.

You would be hard pressed to find someone better to represent the University or its esteemed drama program than French, who got bit by the theatre bug at age eight. She has been involved with everything from Caravan Farm Theatre to Edmonton's own NeXtFest and has an unbridled love for everything that is possible in theatre. "We want to bring something new to Edmonton," she stresses. "Theatre is never finished and we want to experiment in it; we want to rip, tear and see where we can go."

It's this aesthetic that has informed the ETC's latest production, an experimental play about shadows that—in the words of recent MA grad Heather Fitzimmons-Frey—examines "the edges where shadows live." The drama students also attempt to tackle everything from Plato's notorious cave allegory to the idea of a doppelganger (a self-shadow that accompanies every human) and creating a play within shadow.

Although French aims mostly for a "physical and imagistic theatre experience," by excluding dialogue in parts of the play, she is also quite proud of the unique sound design, which has helped to bolster the project and even take some new directions.

"The play also features collaborator Michael Caron onstage playing [his laptop] like a keyboard, which he has all these sounds [on]," she explains. French calls Caron "the third performer, with Aaron (Talbot, trained in physical theatre) and James (Hamilton, a playwrightactor)." This is quite the compliment, given that she stresses some of the scenes, particularly those involving the doppelganger idea, are "extremely physically demanding and it takes a lot of work, and talent, to pull off."



A fresh and enticing take on some rather heavy philosophical ideas, *Shadow Theatre* promises to deliver a theatre experience not quite like anything you've ever experienced. Plus, it will help to aid poor, starving arts students to finish their drama degrees and go on to be full-fledged poor, starving actors.

CULTURA OBSCURA

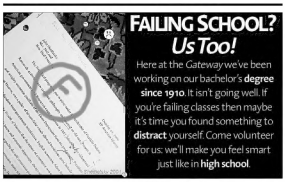


Star Trek Money

PHIL HEAD
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Apparently even obsessive Trekkies need to pull pranks. Those bold enough to go into the student ONEcard office will witness a five-dollar bill bearing the likeness of Spock of *Star Trek* fame sitting framed on a shelf. While a great deal of creativity is needed to transform Wilfred Laurier into a Vulcan with a few strokes of a pen, the fact that large numbers of these bills have been recovered from ONEcard deposit machines is awesome enough that we should all take pride our campus is so riddled with geeks.

Considering that these machines will accept Trekified tender (but not wrinkled bills apparently), aspiring forgers with a penchant for printing may wish to ply their trade at these locations in the future. Live long and prosper, five-dollar bill.



Decision of the Discipline Interpretation & Enforcement Board

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA STUDENTS' UNION

REQUEST FOR INTERPRETATION

DATE: Friday November 14, 2003

D.I.E. BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Christopher Samuel, Chair. Ben Aberant, TJ Adhihetty, Stephen Congly, Michelle Kelly

INTERPRETATION SOUGHT BY:
Steve Smith

ISSUE:
Smith contends that positions of employment within the Students' Union that require ratification by Students' Council (namely: the Chief Returning Officer, the Deputy Returning Officer, the Community Relations Coordinator, the Academic Affairs Coordinator, the Student Activities Coordinator, the Athletics Campus Promotions Coordinator, the Directors of Information Services, the Director of Safewalk, the Director of the Student Distress Centre, the Director of the Environmental Coordination Office of Students, the Director of Student Groups, and the Directors of the Ombudservice) can only be dismissed by a subsequent motion of Students' Council. The General Manager, however, can only be dismissed by the method described in his/her contract.

DECISION:
While hirings are dealt with through bylaws, dismissals are dealt with through operating policies, specifically Operating Policy 9.22. Section 5c of this Policy states that Management employees can be dismissed by the Executive Committee, and that Term employees can be dismissed by a two-thirds majority vote of Students' Council. Since the positions in question (as listed above) are Term employees, they can only be dismissed by a motion of Students' Council that receives, at least, a two-thirds majority. Furthermore, since the General Manager can be classified as a Management employee, he/she can only be dismissed by the Executive Committee (unless there is an overriding method described in his/her contract).

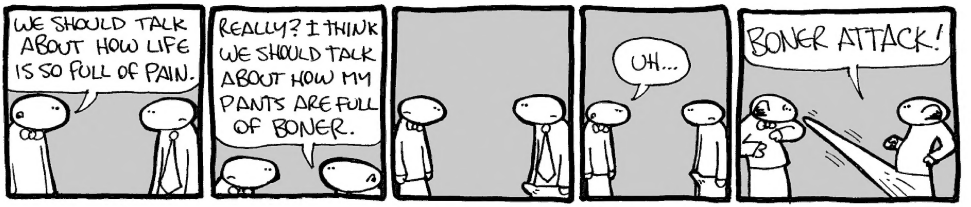
RECOMMENDATION:
In order to eliminate any uncertainties that may exist regarding which employees are Management, Term, Hourly, or Extraordinary, the Discipline, Interpretation, and Enforcement (D.I.E.) Board recommends that the Students' Union appropriately classify all of its employees into one of the aforementioned the categories.

The Discipline, Interpretation and Enforcement (D.I.E.) Board functions as the judicial branch of the Students' Union, and is responsible for interpreting and enforcing all Students' Union legislation. If anyone has any questions regarding the D.I.E. Board, feel free to contact the Chair, Chris Samuel, at *diebboard@su.ualberta.ca*

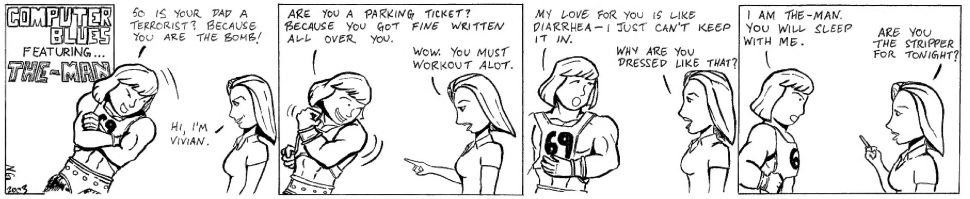
BLACKOUT by Chris Krause and Jen Koskela



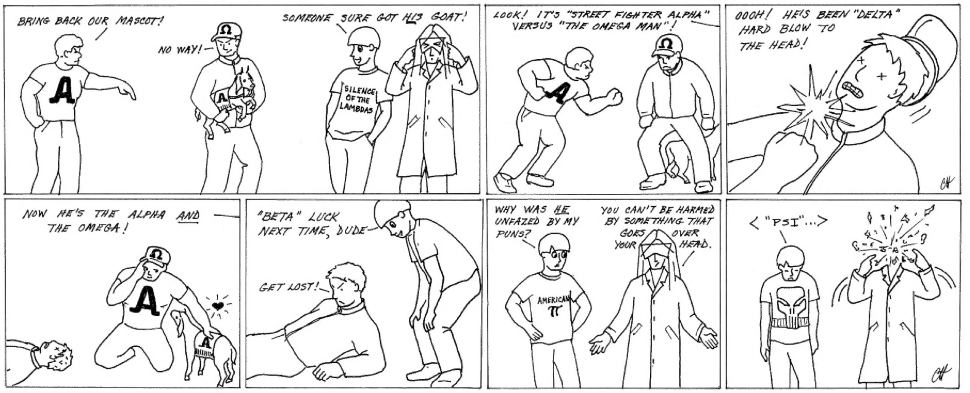
FIVE-MINUTE FEELINGS by Chris Boutet



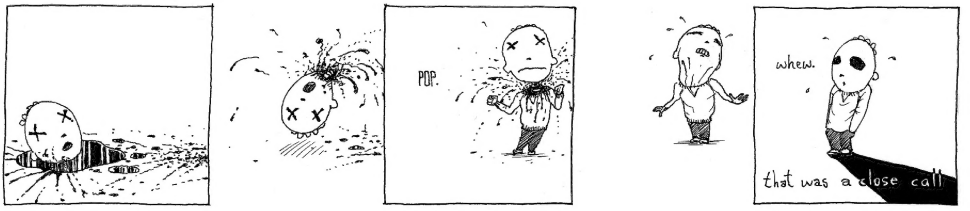
COMPUTER BLUES by Kevin Ng



LABORATORY PURGATORY by Philip and Connie Head



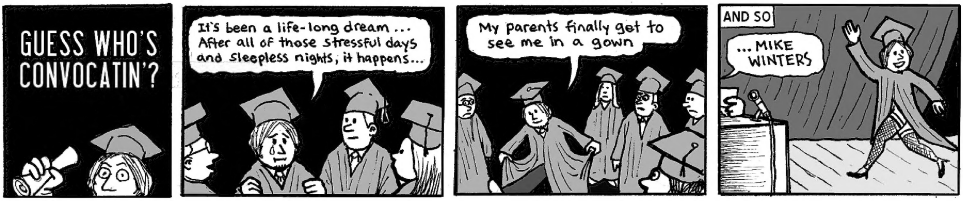
WHEN THE BOUGH BREAKS by Eric Uhlich



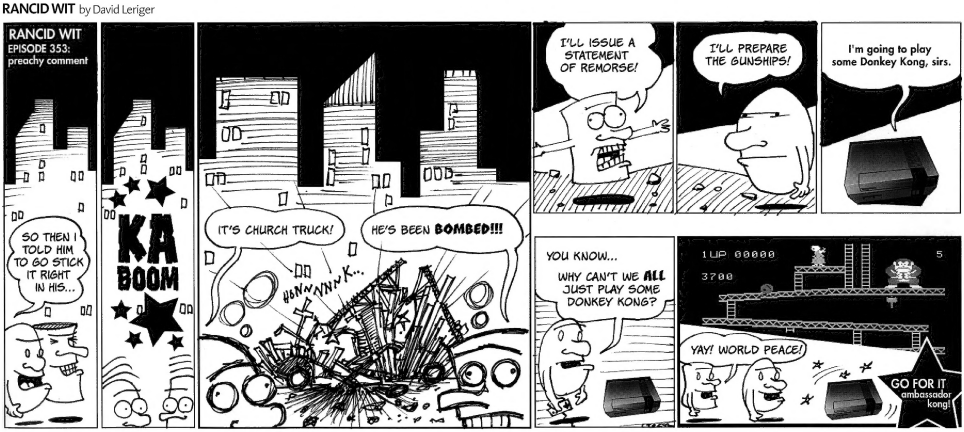
SPACE CAT by Fish Griwkowsky



THE CONVOCATION OF A LEGENDARY CARTOONIST by Mike Winters



RANCID WIT by David Leriger



CARCINOMA by Lloyd Majeau





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CLASSIFIEDS

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Near U of A, 2 bedroom basement suite, full bath, kitchen, wood floors, separate entrance, shared laundries, utilities included, no smoking, no pets, $800 per month, ready 1 Dec. 989-2418.

FOR SALE

New Queen/King Mattress Box Sets, Extra Thick Orthopedic Double Pillowtop. Cost King $1800, Sacrifice $595. Cost Queen $1000, Sacrifice $345. Can Deliver. 720-6613

2000 Pontiac Firefly clone hatchback, Canadian-made, 4-cylinder, 50 mpg. Auto, air, inspected, new all-season tires, $8500 obo. 459-0813

New Queen/King Mattress Box Sets. Extra Thick Orthopedic Double Pillowtop. Cost King $1800, Sacrifice $550. Cost Queen $1000, Sacrifice $295. Free Delivery. 453-3755

WANTED

Youth Ministry Worker Strathearn United Church is searching for an enthusiastic Youth Worker to lead pre-teens on their Sunday morning Biblical explorations as guided by Seasons of the Spirit curriculum and also to arrange and supervise social events (one or two per month) for the 12 to 18 year-olds in the congregation. If you enjoy sharing your faith with youth and can spare up to 40 hours per month please send your resume by November 28th to: Strathearn United Church, 8510-95Ave, Edmonton, AB T6C 1Y7 or email: church of@oanet.com.

Roommates wanted to share large executive home. $325 per month plus $150 sd. All utilities included. Transportation to U of A daily. 487-1386

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Study Medicine in Europe. Visit www.medical-school.ca or email canadian-info@medical-school.ca

Knee Deep in Grass playing at the Backdraught Pub 21 November and 22nd. $2 cover. 8307-99th Street.

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